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June 9, 2023



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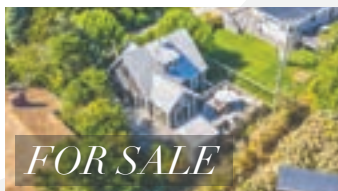
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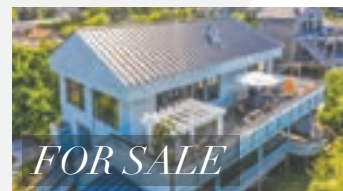
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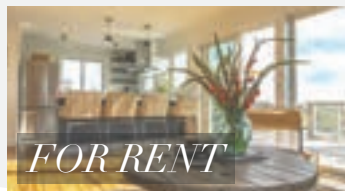
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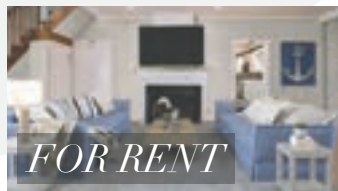
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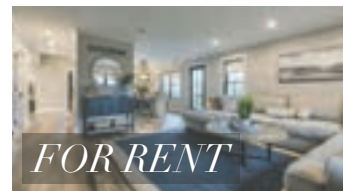
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Cartoon by Zinc Pedersen

## EDITOR'S WINDOW

by Shoshanna McCollum  
editor@fireislandnews.com



## Wooden Ships

IN THIS ISSUE of Fire Island News, we explore the singing of songs, great vessels rising, and memories unearthed – elements that are woven together with common threads.

Reporter Skylar Epstein writes about a tune all but forgotten, while guest contributor Warren Boyd Wexler tells a tale that must be retold so we do not forget. Community columnist Bradlee White is not the only person writing about Kismet this issue. So does Spiritual Beachcomber Cindi Sansone-Braff as does book reviewer Rita Plush. However, Rita is not the only one writing about books... Linda Leuzzi does as well in her column, as does Christopher Verga in the feature article he contributed for this issue. Then there is Chris's history column, where he writes about the "SS Savannah," but not in the way other media outlets did when the 19th century wooden ship rose from her watery grave only to become a story that got passed around like a bad chain letter when picked up by newswires. Instead, he took a deep dive to explore the glory of the great ship herself. Eye on FI columnist Tim Bolger writes of another vessel in our local waters some two centuries later, churning sand from the depths of the ocean.

Speaking of wooden ships and the sea shanties that come with, we also include a few last memorials, one for a great American troubadour. Perhaps David Crosby never set foot on Fire Island, but his story belongs here. Read our paper to find out why.

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**ON THE COVER:** Believe in unicorns. Image from the Patchogue Pride Parade by Linda Leuzzi.



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# Brookhaven Condemns Hotel Fire Island Pines Prior to Memorial Day Weekend

By Skylar Epstein

ON THURSDAY, MAY 11, the Town of Brookhaven condemned The Hotel Fire Island Pines as a dangerous and unsafe structure for violating numerous building safety codes. Due to the condemnation order it is currently unlawful for any persons to occupy the hotel.

In a statement to the Fire Island News, Town of Brookhaven Spokesperson Jack Krieger said that building inspectors found several issues and that the town has engaged in “conversations with the owners” and their representatives “to bring the building into compliance.” The structure was determined to be unsafe based on an inspection by William Governali, a building inspector for the Town of Brookhaven, conducted the same date as the condemnation order.

The building’s condemnation notice specifically cites violations of the 2020 Fire Prevention Code of New York State, the 2020 Residential Code of New York State, and the 2020 Property Maintenance Code of New York State. Listed factors fueling these violations included S.P.M. 107.1.1 Unsafe Structure, S.P.M. 108.1 Imminent Danger, as well as five others.

When the company that owns the hotel, Outpost Pines LLC, was asked for comment on the condemnation of their hotel they said: “We have no comment. We are working with the town to figure out what to do.” It should also be noted that, according to publicly available court filings, Outpost Pines LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Thursday, Feb. 23, of this year. Chapter 11 bankruptcies typically involve the reorganization of debts in order to keep a business alive.

When asked how Outpost Pines LLC can get the condemnation order lifted, Krieger replied to Fire Island News by email that: “The owner needs to have a Professional Engineer evaluate the conditions that are in disrepair which are listed on the Condemnation Notice. i.e., sidewalks, railings and foundation system.” Krieger also said that, “Once they submit an application for the repairs and receive a permit, a Building Inspector will



Photo by Robert Sherman

perform an inspection to verify conformance with the proposed repairs are complete and acceptable the Condemnation will be lifted.”

Throughout its storied history the Hotel Fire Island Pines has been operated by several owners and gone by several different names since the original establishment of a hotel and yacht club in the area during the 1950s. According to the Fire Island Pines Historical Preservation Society the property was originally developed by Peggy Fears, a former Ziegfeld girl, at the urging of the Home Guardian Company of NY who wanted the property to lure home buyers to the area. The hotel was originally dubbed the The Botel by fashion model and actress Teddi Thurman.

In 1959, a fire burned the hotel and its associated yacht club to the ground over Memorial Day Weekend, but Fears had the yacht club hastily rebuilt by Reynolds Aluminum Company in time for Independence Day Weekend with the hotel also being rebuilt by the following season. In 1962, Fears sold the property to fashion model John Whyte who maintained the property as a destination for the rich and famous. In 1970, a pool was added to the property and it became the center piece of numerous fashion shows attracting big names in the fashion industry like Pat Cleveland and Wayland Flowers as well as many porn stars.

The property has been passed between several owners since Eric Von Kuersteiner bought it from Whyte in 2006. It was most recently leased to the Sharegurl organization, before finally falling under the control of Outpost Pines LLC. This is the history of the property as told by the Fire Island Pines Historical Preservation Society. However, the future of the property remains uncertain.

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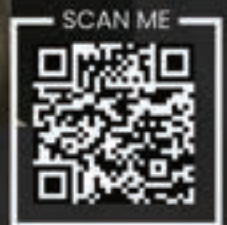
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# “Lost” Freddie Mercury Produced Song to Be Released in U.S.

By Skylar Epstein

“IF THIS IS NOT a hit dear, sue Warner Brothers.”

That is what Freddie Mercury allegedly said to Eddie Howell about his 1976 song “Man from Manhattan,” but the Mercury produced song was blacklisted just as it began to climb the UK charts. Consequently, the original mix of this “lost” song was never released in the United States – until now.

At the end of July, the original mix of Howell’s “Man from Manhattan,” featuring Mercury and Queen lead guitarist Brian May, will be released to music streaming services in the U.S. Two other mixes of the song also will be simultaneously released alongside the original Mercury produced version, an adjusted version that makes slight changes to the sound of the instruments, and a remastered version that takes advantage of new audio mixing technology. In addition, Howell told Fire Island News that 5,000 limited edition white vinyl records containing all three versions of the song, and 10 other tracks, are currently available for preorder.

A different version of “Man from Manhattan,” with additional instrumental swing by Pirate Swing Band, was released in 2018. The proceeds of that version of the song went to The Mercury Phoenix Trust, a charity that fights HIV/AIDS founded to honor Mercury after his AIDS related death in 1991.

Prior to the blacklisting of the song, it was becoming a turntable hit in the UK and also was receiving heavy rotation in mainland Europe. Howell described walking down the street and hearing it playing out of car windows just two weeks before it was banned. Howell’s song was blacklisted within the UK and blocked from release in the United States and other major territories for over half a century over a dispute with the Musicians Union, a labor union representing 33,000 British musicians, according to the union’s website. The union somehow discovered that one of the musicians on the album was working without a permit and this led to a total ban on further media exposure. High level talks between Warner Brothers and the union did not prevent the killing of the record in the UK. The American release also was shelved because only songs that are hits domestically are released in foreign markets. Howell described the situation as “surreal,” “terrible” and “unfair.” Howell also said killing the song through tipping off the Musicians Union was an “inside job” and that the situation made him feel like he was “stabbed in the back.”

“Man From Manhattan” is a song about the mafia inspired by Mario Puzo’s novel “The Godfather Papers.” So, it makes sense that when asked to sum up the situation Howell said that “‘The Man from Manhattan’ got taken down by a hit man.” If that is the case, music industry bureaucracy was certainly a co-conspirator in the song’s murder. Now however the song is back from the dead. Howell stressed that he does not dwell on how the situation played out saying: “I’ll always have fond memories of making the record and working with Freddie and Bryan was indeed a privilege. I always dreamed of the day I could give



**Eddie Howell and Freddie Mercury at the recording session for “Man From Manhattan.”**  
(Photo © Mick Rock, courtesy of Jordan Lee, via prnewswire.com)

the ‘Man from Manhattan’ a second chance and I’m glad to say that day is not too far away now.”

Howell never did sue Warner Brothers over his song not being a hit. Mercury was joking when he made the suggestion and Howell said he would not have had a legal leg to stand on if he had tried to sue. Still, he did finally open negotiations with the company to get the rights to it back and his success in those negotiations are why we will soon finally get to hear the “Man from Manhattan” for ourselves.

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# Island Pride



Porsche has been a fixture in Cherry Grove for almost two decades and now she can add Homecoming Queen 2023 to her long list of accolades. Read more about it in Rose's View on page 23. (Photo by Mike Fisher)



Police officers in Patchogue get into the spirit of things at the first-ever Patchogue Pride Parade. Find it on our website at [www.fireislandnews.com](http://www.fireislandnews.com). (Photo by Linda Leuzzi)



Kismet in Kismet: Becky Chalsen, pictured with her husband Zack, has every reason to smile as the debut of her recent novel is a smash success. Rita Plush writes all about it in her Book Review column this issue on page 35. (Photo by Beth Batkiewicz)



Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter pays tribute in Ocean Beach over Memorial Day Weekend. Visit [www.fireislandnews.com](http://www.fireislandnews.com) for additional event coverage. (Photo by Shoshanna McCollum)



Wanda Sykes and Ginger Snap heat things up at the Ice Palace. (Photo by Mike Fisher)



Melon season! Find out what else is happening out east in Lisa D.'s Davis Park column on page 25.



A Woman and Her Dog: Drew O'Connor with her dog Sammy partakes in the Bay Shore Art Crawl. Read about it only on our website, [www.fireislandnews.com](http://www.fireislandnews.com). (Photo by Skylar Epstein)



**SPIRITUAL BEACHCOMBING >> by Cindi Sansone-Braff**

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# Kismet

I WILL NEVER FORGET the first time I made the pilgrimage from Robert Moses Field 5 down the long dirt road that leads to Fire Island. That happened more

than a decade ago, yet I still vividly remember being awestruck when I saw an enchanted town surrounded by the Great South Bay on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Discovering that this community's name was Kismet made the whole experience seem mystical. I felt like Dorothy landing in Oz.

The word kismet means fate or destiny. Putting it more poetically, we might say something was written in the stars. In a more traditional religious context, we might say it was God's will.

In the early 19th century, when the Western world went through a period of infatuation with Eastern cultures, this exotic-sounding Turkish word was adopted into English. However, the word comes from the Arabic word qisma, which means portion or lot. Some people think of kismet as their destiny or lot in life, something meant to be.

After the success of the 1953 Broadway show "Kismet," with lyrics by Robert Wright and George Forrest and book by Charles Lederer and Luther Davis, the word kismet came into widespread use. Although critics were less than enthused with this musical, as fate or kismet would have it, there was a newspaper strike under way when this show premiered. By the time the long strike was over, and those bad reviews went to print, "Kismet" had become a box office hit. In 1954, this show even went on to win the Tony Award for Best Musical.

More often than not, we tend to think of kismet as a serendipitous, beneficial life-changing event. Romantically speaking, most people associate the word kismet with the joyous coming together of two souls who are destined to meet. The term soulmate is often used when referencing these blessed couples. Yet kismet cuts both ways and can be used to explain an unexpected tragic event, but we are more likely to refer to this situation as ill-fated or attribute it to bad luck rather than to chalk it up to kismet. However, this unfortunate occurrence could be kismet in action since there are two types of kismet: Kismet by Grace, which is always a positive occurrence, and Karmic Kismet, which could have positive or negative consequences.

In the Hindu and Buddhist religions, karma is the belief that a person's free-will thoughts and deeds determine the favorable or unfavorable path their life will take; in other words, cause and effect or action and reaction. This sentiment is reflected in the proverbs we reap what we sow and what goes around comes around. Following this reasoning, a person who accrues good karma could manifest an advantageous kismet experience. Whereas an individual with less-than-stellar thoughts and behaviors might bring on the kind of kismet we call misfortune, mischance, or mishap. These negative instances of Karmic Kismet are not to be confused with the times we are broadsided by Random Acts of Karma, which translates into being at the wrong place



at the wrong time. When Karmic Kismet strikes, we will always be able to look back and trace the steps that led to the twist of fate that impacted our lives for better or worse.

Kismet by Grace always brings good fortune since grace is defined as unmerited favor from God, not earned but freely given. This kind of kismet is an unconditional gift of love from above, like winning the spiritual jackpot just by being you.

When it comes to Kismet by Grace, timing is everything. To comprehend how this divine conspiracy of heaven and earth transpires, you must understand the concept of kairos time. According to the ancient Greeks, there are two words for time, chronos, which measures the quantity of time using clocks and calendars, and kairos, which means right time or opportune. Kairos signifies quality time, those unforgettable, synchronistic moments where you feel like the stars have aligned in your favor. Kismet by Grace depends upon divine timing, meaning chronos time worked with kairos time to make this fortuitous phenomenon come to pass.

This summer, as you stroll through the beach paradise known as Fire Island, try to reflect upon the times kismet has played out in your life. Meditate on how your thoughts, actions, and deeds could better work together to bring about future positive Karmic Kismet moments. As for being blessed by Kismet by Grace, keep the faith!



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# Pine Walk Fair Discontinued in Fair Harbor

By Morgan Legret

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, the Pine Walk Fair has been one of many long-lasting traditions in the Fair Harbor community. It originated on Pine Walk by the ocean side where three artists would sell what they produced. In recent years, the fair had grown to occupy most of the bayside, beginning at the firehouse and ending at the docks.

The Pine Walk Fair became more than an opportunity for vendors to promote their business. It was held over Fourth of July weekend, which allowed this event to kick off the summer season and welcome the community with open arms.

Helen Kornblau oversaw the fair for many years. It consisted of 25 loyal vendors who sold handmade merchandise. The venue excluded mass market goods or secondhand goods. Vendors, both local and from the tri-state area, sold all types of artisanal items such as clothing, jewelry, ceramics, handbags, hats, soaps, birdhouses, and glassware among other things, and authors, painters and photographers would exhibit their latest works. Bakers and cooks would feed the masses after a long day of shopping and in front of the firehouse, you could find a miscellaneous table and a silent auction where all the valuable goods were donated by charitable manufacturers or organizations.

The sense of community would roar during the Pine Walk Fair. Over 40 volunteers came to help



Photo by Lauren Chenault

despite never having sold anything a day in their lives because it encouraged a community spirit. The fair was also crucial for raising money for the Fair Harbor Community Association (FHCA). With the money raised by the fair, the association was able to make improvements to the town and address resident needs. Examples include funds used to maintain the bay beach lifeguards, clean the public bathrooms at the firehouse, garbage collections on Sunday mornings and family-friendly programs held at the firehouse.

However, the Pine Walk fair will not take place this year and is not expected to make a return.

“We had hoped that after COVID a group would arise to help manage the fair, but times have changed, and people are busier today than they ever were,” read a statement made by Judy Corcoran, president of the FHCA.

Hosting the event on a Fourth of July weekend was an additional issue. While it was an ideal weekend to bring in the maximum number of visitors, it made the workload to prepare for this event extend far before and after the actual fair. This became unsustainable for many of the volunteers.

Similar events began to emerge and grow over the past few years such as The Fair Harbor Deck Arts Crawl. This event will take place on July 15, and will consist of more than a dozen people who couldn’t afford the set-up costs for the Pine Walk Fair; they will sell their goods from their decks.

“This is not an FHCA-sponsored event at this time,” Corcoran stated. “All sponsored events need insurance and the FHCA provides that if not more.”

In lieu of this year’s Pine Walk Fair, a Clear Your Clutter Day will take place on June 17. This event will be an opportunity to continue to raise funds for the FHCA. Residents can donate items to the firehouse between 8 and 10 a.m.



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# Election Examined: How the Ocean Beach Vote Went and Why

By Shoshanna McCollum

IT WAS A COOL and drowsy post-Memorial Day Weekend Friday as voters passed under the black and purple bunting that still hang over the doorway to mark the recent passing of former Mayor Natalie Rogers to enter Ocean Beach Community House, which had been converted to a polling place on June 2. The election inspectors consisting of Village office staff and a few volunteer-residents were efficient and polite. Poll watchers, usually an energetic bunch during this process, sat quiet and still. In spite of the orderly appearance of things there was tension in the air. This has been a most unusual election for the Village of Ocean Beach as the shadow of last October's scathing audit released by the New York State Comptroller's Office played front and center as to how events unfolded to determine this evening's final outcome.

There have been some uncomfortable moments over the past few months. The virtual Ocean Beach Association (OBA) Winter Meeting held March 14, the forum where potential candidates traditionally announce their intent to run for village board, was derailed by frustrated residents who felt questions were not answered to satisfaction. It climaxed at the May 20 Board of Trustees meeting where Ocean Beach Mayor Mallott called for the resignation of OBA President Maria Silsdorf, accusing her of "politicizing" the OBA, acting like a "sixth trustee," and having a conflict as her husband, Ocean Beach Fire Chief Ian Levine was one of the candidates



running for office – an incident so awkward that Trustee Christopher Norris felt the need to distance himself from it at the May 27 OBA Candidate's Forum.

This was a difficult election to predict. Many village elections in recent memory had candidates running unopposed, but this one had five contenders running for two available positions. Incumbents often run together as a united force with endorsement by the Village mayor, but this did not appear to be as Trustee Norris and Deputy Mayor Matthew Blake seemed left on their own. Members of the Ocean Beach Fire Department tend to rally around their brothers and sisters who choose to run for elected office, but division was visible here too, weakening that network of support for longtime firefighters Blake and Levine. Even the swagger of the business community was tempered, making the candidacies of Restaurateur/Co-President of the Ocean Beach Chamber of Commerce Jennifer Moritz and local building

contractor Robert Cernilli uncertain.

Yet in spite of all the turmoil in recent weeks, civility prevailed at the polling place, maybe people were just too tired for more drama.

Upon closing of the polls at 9 p.m., the 357 machine votes were tabulated with Moritz in

the lead with 162 votes, Levine 132 votes, Cernilli 125 votes, Blake 112 votes, and Norris 88 votes. With 124 approved absentee ballots, every candidate still had a mathematical chance of turning the tide – and to some extent they did – 70 absentee ballots put Ian Levine in the lead with 202 votes at the end of the count. With 33 more votes, Jennifer Moritz still had enough to win the second seat with 195 votes. Thirty-three cast absentee votes for Robert Cernilli were not enough to pull him

out of the third-place rank, but campaign lawn signs around the neighborhood indicate his message had resonated with many Ocean Beach residents. Blake (in office since 2011) and Norris (in office since 2015) picked up 26 and 48 more votes respectively, but it was not enough as both incumbents not only lost their seats, but came in at the bottom of the tally.

Some residents quietly confided that they believed Blake and Norris, decent men, paid a bitter price for that audit and the deficiencies it cited may not have been their fault. Yet as office holders, both had to campaign in this race with one hand tied behind their backs.

"This is an instance where ranked voting might have been helpful," said longtime Ocean Beach resident Steve Himes. "Even the candidates who took the lead still only have a little more than 20% of the popular vote."

Nevertheless, the two trustee-elects will be sworn into office on July 4, 2023, and the people of Ocean Beach have sent a message.



Cartoon by Zinc Pedersen

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR >>

TRANGLEBALL IS still available for all to play at the border of OB and Seaview. Although families in my area of the beach enjoy Trangleball, at the end of last season I was surprised that most residents thought it was no longer on the island. I sit court side to teach, coach and educate all that are interested and still keep the balls underneath the TRANGLE so it is ALWAYS available.

While I no longer manufacture (hopefully I am "TEMPORARILY" out of business) and have no money

for shirts and advertising, for the past three months I was contacted by a school district's Physical Education Administrator in Hong Kong. When he asked to purchase a few, I emailed him instructions on how to build his own. He made a few and is now piloting it in four schools. So, who knows? I still believe that Fire Island can bring Trangleball to the country. I believe families would love a resurgence.

Thanks again!

Mark Miller, Corneille Estates

**CORRECTIONS:** Attribution footnotes were inadvertently omitted from the May 26, 2023, print edition of "Arts Project of Cherry Grove: Both Sides of the Footlights for 75 Years," by Carl Luss. They have been included in the online version of this article, which can be found on our website. Also, in the Cherry Grove/Fire Island Pines community column by Robert Levine, a passage about Fire Island Pines Arts Project (FIPAP) celebrating 42 years of operation was also inadvertently omitted. FIPAP is offering the 2023 line-up of entertainment, not Fire Island Pines Property Association (FIPPOA), although FIPPOA is celebrating their 70th Anniversary this season.

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**POLICE BLOTTER >>** by Shoshanna McCollum

# Disturbances, Dumping, and an Animal in the Attic

## MAY 22

- Complaint of master locks cut at 335 Surf Road and 386 Dehnhoff Walk at 9:15 a.m.
- OBPD assists deer stuck in fence at 10:29 a.m.
- John Cunha receives summons for operating vehicle without a permit at 1:45 p.m.

## MAY 24

- A trespass complaint at Unit #7 of Bayside Condos is received at 7 p.m.

## MAY 26

- Disturbance at beach and Bayberry reported at 10:54 a.m.
- Disturbance at beach and Cottage reported at 2:20 p.m.
- An abandoned trailer on a property is reported at 3:32 p.m.
- A fight in front of the Community House erupts at 3:47 p.m.
- Disturbance at beach and Bungalow reported at 5:15 p.m.
- Youths causing hazard playing ball on a busy thoroughfare is stopped by officers on patrol at 6:43 p.m.
- Howard Abramowicz of Dix Hills is issued a summons for renting without a permit at 6:49 p.m.

## MAY 27

- Disturbance at playground reported at 3:35 p.m.
- A drone flying in hazardous and intrusive manner in the vicinity of 216 Wilmot is reported at 4:38 p.m.
- A phone-in complaint of teens about to get into a fight at Cottage and Midway is reported at 5:30 p.m.
- Disturbance at 117 Bungalow is reported at 6:24 p.m.
- Fight in front of Sandbar is reported at 7:55 p.m.
- A summons issued to Briana and Timothy Pampanya of Hempstead for disorderly conduct in front of Sandbar at 7:55 p.m.
- Disturbance is reported at the Pantry at 9:10 p.m.
- A disturbance at the ferry terminal is reported at 9:45 p.m.
- A person in the water at the ferry terminal and freight dock is reported at 11:40 p.m.

## MAY 28

- An unnamed person is arrested for inciting a riot and placed in cell at 9:36 p.m.
- Another unnamed person is arrested for false impersonation and placed in cell at 11:40 p.m.

## MAY 29

- A disturbance at playground is reported at 2:45 p.m.
- A disturbance at the lifeguard shack is reported at 7:06 p.m.
- A complaint of a large group of youths causing a disturbance on the beach at Bungalow Walk is reported at 9:40 p.m.
- A fight onboard a departing ferry erupts at 10:40 p.m.

## MAY 30

- A possible boater in distress reported in the ocean near Cottage Walk at 8:36 a.m.
- Illegal dumping is reported at 183 Wilmot Walk at 2 p.m.

## MAY 31

- Illegal dumping is reported at 291 Cottage Walk at noon.
- Officers respond to a disturbance near 607 Bayberry Walk at 4:30 p.m.

## JUNE 2

- A disturbance at the resident marina is reported at 6:03 p.m.
- A disturbance at Windswept is reported at 10:14 p.m.

## JUNE 3

- An animal in the attic is reported at 507 Bayberry at 6:27 a.m.
- A disturbance at the boat house is reported at 12:57 p.m.

*In this time period there were 20 garbage or littering complaints, 13 noise complaints, 51 open container violations reported, 12 incidents of underage drinking and/or false ID summonses, five summonses issued for public urination, two stolen wagons, and one stolen bike.*

*A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*



## MAY 4

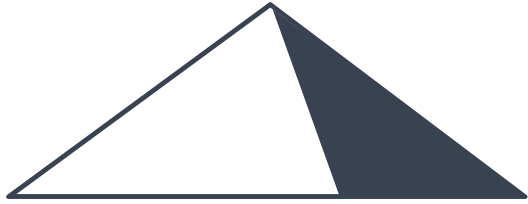
Police Officer Megan Hesse and Sgt. Eric Kirchner discovered a seal in distress on the beach at Saltaire while traveling to relieve other officers of duty during a change in shifts. The seal was entangled in rope, netting and fishing line. While the seal was aggressive and not allowing approach, both officers managed to restrain it. Officer Hesse then cut all rope and netting from the creature. Neither officer was injured in spite of multiple attempts made by the seal to bite both of them. The seal appeared in good shape once the debris was removed and it was released. New York Marine Rescue Center was notified about the incident. (Photos courtesy of OBFD)

# ALIVE by the BAY

## TUESDAYS from 5PM-9PM

<p><i>June</i> <b>27TH</b></p>	<p>3RD AVE STAGE <b>RICH MAHOGANY</b></p> <p>4TH AVE STAGE <b>NO REQUEST BAND</b></p>	<p>TWINS VET STAGE <b>FIESTA TROPICAL</b></p> <p>WEST END STAGE <b>TOM CILMI</b></p>
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<p><i>July</i> <b>11TH</b></p> <p>3RD AVE STAGE <b>O EL AMOR</b></p> <p>4TH AVE STAGE <b>J HAUS BAND</b></p> <p>TWINS VET STAGE <b>ONE STEP AHEAD</b></p> <p>WEST END STAGE <b>TWO FRANKS &amp; A GREG</b></p>	<p><i>July</i> <b>25TH</b></p> <p>3RD AVE STAGE <b>12X</b></p> <p>4TH AVE STAGE <b>DIRTY VICE BAND</b></p> <p>TWINS VET STAGE <b>FUNKIN A</b></p> <p>WEST END STAGE <b>ED TRAVERS</b></p>	<p><i>August</i> <b>8TH</b></p> <p>3RD AVE STAGE <b>TRADEWINDS</b></p> <p>4TH AVE STAGE <b>TIM MOONEY &amp; FRIENDS</b></p> <p>TWINS VET STAGE <b>FIESTA TROPICAL</b></p> <p>WEST END STAGE <b>BUOY 34</b></p>
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# KISMET



## KISMET KAPERS by Bradlee White

IT WAS A MEMORABLE Memorial Day weekend. Seemingly like magic, American flags appeared on utility poles up and down most of our walks. It wasn't magic, it was Kismet. Patriotic Kismetians put them up, like the neighbor I saw on my walk very early one morning, a ladder on his shoulder. The Marina and individual houses also marked the day of remembrance. What was truly magic was a three-day early season Memorial holiday with no rain, not even clouds. It was sunny and mild each day – warm enough for the young folks, visiting and native, to roam the streets in shorts, bikinis and bare feet. The breeze off the ocean was cold but that did not stop some hearty beachgoers. Meanwhile, some of the barefoot kids of yore pushed strollers. Casey Licari, Briana Romanzi and Nicolas V. for three were out visiting their parents and showing off their newborns.

It was a memorable weekend of activity. The second annual plant and potting soil sale, sponsored by the Kismet Fire Department Auxiliary (KFDA) was a monumental – and successful – undertaking. Volunteer organizers, remembering last year's overwhelming community response (a complete sellout halfway through the first day) planned accordingly. A virtual pre-sale with customers picking up their orders the weekend before produced sales of over



**Dawn Leone, Lisa Chris Swiedler, Kim Alyson Harris, and Dana De Ruvo at the Plant Sale.**

\$5,000. Beginning Friday afternoon, the Fire Department Community room was completely filled with plants. The walk to the firehouse door was lined with 5-foot high stacks of potting soil. All the plants sold out with only a few remaining bags of soil leftover. A plant stand, christened Seymour (think "Little Shop of Horrors"), was raffled off. Across the way Kismet League for Animal Welfare (KLAW) volunteers set up their table in Sam Wood's driveway to sell tickets for the season's first Raffle Wreath of Scratch Offs. Gary Guinta picked up his winning tickets Tuesday,

donating the rattan wreath back to KLAW for the next raffle. There was a band downtown Saturday evening and the Dirty Vice Band played Sunday afternoon by the "La Famiglia" house on the bay.

Last fall 400 people came from all over the island and the mainland to Kismet to celebrate the memory of Jillian Metcalf and raise funds for the J.A.M. Foundation. One of the Foundation's goals was to honor Jillian's medical/nursing pursuits. Jillian's mother, Bonnie, just announced that the first J.A.M. scholarship was awarded to a Bay Shore High School senior on June 1 and an additional one was to be given to an Islip High senior on June 8.

Last weekend Kismet celebrated the beginning of June with early April-like temperatures, clouds and blustery winds. This did not deter Kismet homeowners and long-term renters from gathering to celebrate Kismet's New Year's Eve in the Kismet Park downtown tennis courts. The standup affair was a Meet and Great for summer friends who, for the most part, celebrate that holiday miles away from each other. It was a time of warm feelings, a renewing of cherished relationships, a whiff of Kismet past, and a hope, in Krisha Lambe's words, of a drift back to an older sense of community.

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# SALTAIRE



## SALTAIRE SUMMERY by Hugh O'Brien

WELL, NO ONE could have asked for a more perfect Memorial Day weekend. Warm but not hot, great ocean breezes, old friends to mingle with, and the Saltaire Market door easier than ever to pull open, beckoning you toward well-stocked shelves. Heck, this year it's even easy to find the Fire Island News on the reorganized newsstand. So, no excuses not to grab and read a copy.

Elsewhere, the folks that get things done around here continue making all preparations for getting underway with the summer of '23. Maybe it's people's understandable itch to get the season moving that's behind it, but there have been a few instances of late where some residents have been a bit more touchy than feely in their expectations. Still, the Village staff has been putting in even longer hours than usual getting things in shape and in order in order to be in shape before the place really fills up with summertime's quota of the usual throngs and hordes that flesh out our community's life. Anyway, the beaches, courts and fields are open, with the Club offering peace and serenity after a hard day's beaching, court-ing and fielding, so no need to add additional angst to a world already sufficiently beset with same.

This may be the early-June doldrums, but no mistake, Miss Kate (Valente) has set up the Library for browsing and play while preparing for her full-summer program starting the first week of July – the



**Saltire's oldest resident and World War II veteran Milton Pike, 102, displays his copy of the Instrument of Surrender signed September 2, 1945, one of 11 such copies Milton, a professional lithographer, was commissioned to draw up for the occasion. (Photo by Hugh O'Brien.)**

same week Camp begins, with director Molly Davis and crew likewise busily gearing up. (Is there some 1950's song reason we say "Miss Kate" but

not "Miss Molly"?) The Post Office is slated to open June 13, with Miss Liv Hempel overseeing the boxes and hearing-aid ads that flow in, and in a sure sign of summer, twice-weekly (plus-Thursdays) rubbish collection has begun. Don't miss it.

On a sad note, amidst the early-season rush last time I inadvertently missed including the passing of Merry Wetherall, Barry's wife and, well, just simply a smart, ever-cheerful, lifelong islander who for decades managed Barry, his business and their family, the first of which at least is no small task. A rare gem, our Merry.

On a happier note, I had a great visit with Saltaire's oldest resident, Milton Pike, back home after four months refugeeing south of the border in Cozumel, where he celebrated birthday number 102 on March 11. Milt got 202 birthday cards (I didn't check), but the highlight was reading a copy of the Instrument of Surrender signed by the Japanese in Tokyo Bay in 1945, which Milt (who helped prepare the physical documents) somehow retained. (I didn't ask about that one either.) Every signatory's John Hancock is there except Hirohito's, who only signed the primary copy; but that disappointment notwithstanding, MacArthur, Nimitz, Shigemitsu and the gang by the gangway are all aboard, in four languages (including Chinese and Russian). Quite an item to keep in your desk drawer.



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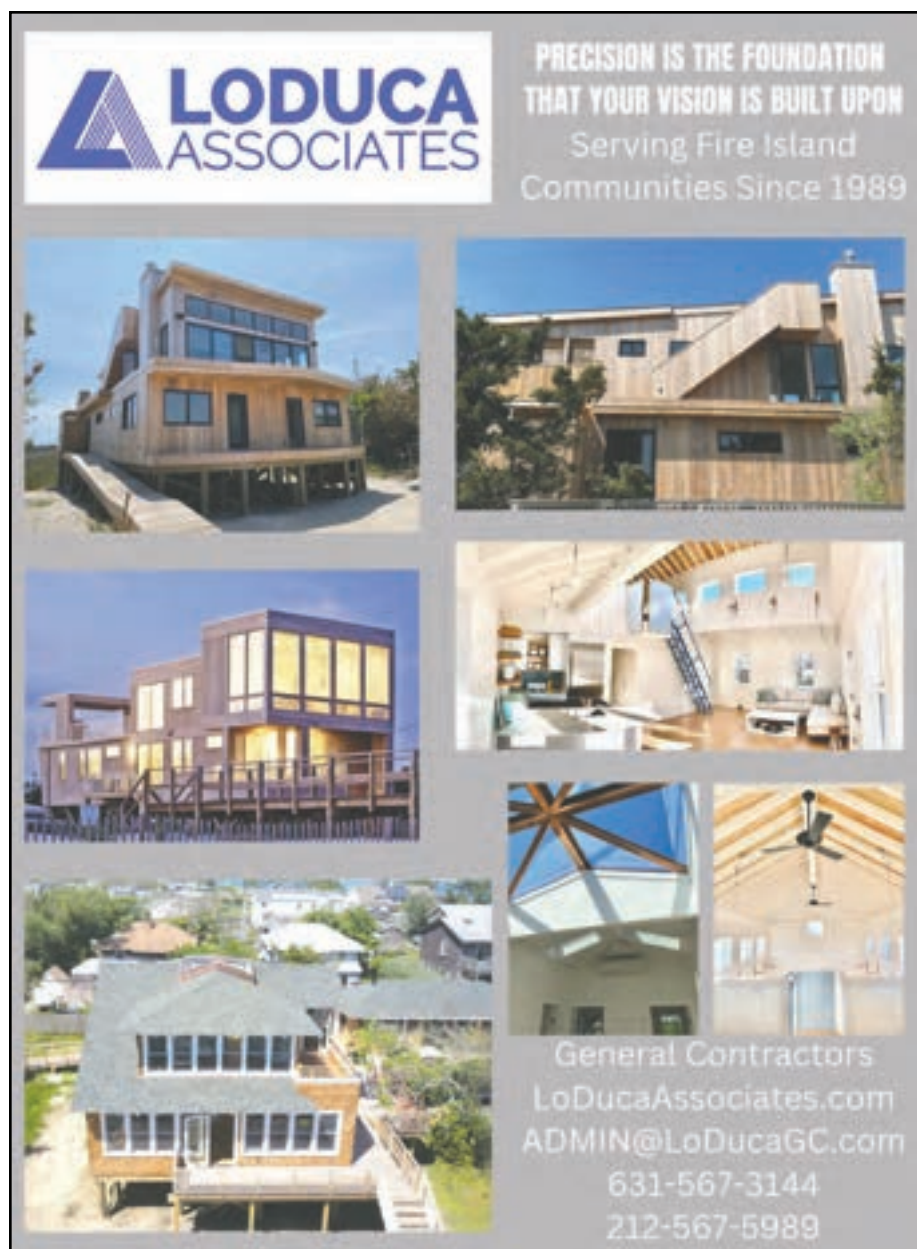
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DINING REVIEW >> by Joey Macellaro

# Taste of Ocean Beach Highlights Local Restaurants

MORE THAN 300 RESIDENTS and visitors participated in a restaurant crawl through downtown Ocean Beach on the afternoon of Saturday, June 3. Titled Taste of Ocean Beach, it was the first such event hosted by the Ocean Beach Community Fund, a nonprofit that sponsors projects and events to benefit the community.

“What a great afternoon,” said Community Fund President Holly Etlin. “Homeowners and their guests and visitors from neighboring communities and Long Island all gathered together to enjoy our first Taste of Ocean Beach.” The Community Fund board had been planning the event for several months, securing funding from Cernilli Remodeling along with raffle items from an assortment of local businesses. A total of 12 restaurants participated, each serving a signature food and drink item that were included with the purchase of a \$50 ticket.

I spent the afternoon with two friends who were new to Ocean Beach, making our way from east to west. Matthew’s Seafood House offered two options for diners: either a martini with crunchy breaded fish tacos or a Bloody Mary with shrimp. The fish taco, a special not normally served on the menu, was my friend’s favorite dish of the day, while the martini was my personal favorite drink.



1

beef tacos being prepared as a special for the day. The Greyhound, with Tito’s vodka and fresh-squeezed grapefruit, is a popular cocktail at the Albatross and also was served.

After enjoying a chicken taco and margarita at Taco Beach, we reached our last stop at Maguire’s



2

Crowds had gathered at the Island Mermaid on the bay, but the staff kept diners moving with buffet-style service. The Mermaid’s perfectly crispy calamari is probably my favorite appetizer served in Ocean Beach, and the kitchen did not disappoint. Paired with



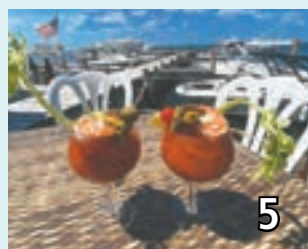
3

Bayfront Restaurant just in time to enjoy their fall-off-the-bone ribs. Other diners had similarly traveled from east to west and some commented that the best was saved for last, suggesting to Maguire’s management that the ribs be added to their regular menu. A refreshing Bubba’s Five Rum Punch

zesty homemade marinara sauce and a refreshing High Tide cocktail featuring Gray Whale gin, lemon juice, and sparkling grapefruit, the calamari at the Mermaid was among the best dishes offered.

We had sampled the Landing’s fare while checking in, so we skipped next to CJ’s Restaurant and Bar. No trip to Ocean Beach would be complete without a Rocket Fuel from CJ’s, which was served with pulled pork sliders. The Sand Bar dished out delicious mini steak sandwiches and thick, chocolatey mudslides while a live band performed – the only live music featured during this daytime event.

Our eighth stop was at Rachel’s, which featured chocolate chip and butter cookies along with spiked iced coffee. As a non-coffee drinker I passed on the coffee, but my friends thoroughly enjoyed the change of pace at Rachel’s, which is famous for its baked goods and breakfasts.



5

Although the directory for the event listed pork tacos at the Albatross, beef tacos were instead offered, and we were pleasantly surprised. The restaurant normally serves fish tacos and beef burritos, with the

was the perfect capstone to an afternoon of the best food and drinks the community has to offer.

“The OBCF would like to thank all our village restaurants and Cernilli for their wonderful support of this fundraiser for the recreation program,” said Etlin. “Our fundraising team is now hard at work on our Main Event with Karin Ward, scheduled for Aug. 5.”

Community Fund Co-chairperson Rita Silver wished to thank Kevin Hennessy and Kevin McCarthy for constructing a totem pole that was placed in the center of town directing attendees to the participating restaurants. The piece became a meeting point for guests, many of whom posed for photos with the pole and bay as a backdrop.

There is talk of Taste of Ocean Beach becoming an annual event. My two friends said they got a feel for the community and what it has to offer and can’t wait to return, so this writer thinks that would be an outstanding idea.



4

The vadouvan curry shrimp with rice served as a small plate at Castaway Bar and Grill was among the most flavorful food items served and is normally available as a full-size entrée. The dish was paired with a Kona Big Wave Golden Ale.

We stopped next at the Hideaway, enjoying dainty baked clams topped with bacon as we took in bayside views and sipped on the Local, a signature drink featuring cucumber-infused vodka. A variation of the clams with shrimp stuffing had been served earlier in the day and were a favorite of several members of the Community Fund board. Next door, Houser’s Bar and Grill served their signature Zippy coolers, along with generously sized fish and avocado sandwiches.

1. OBCF volunteers with the totem directory at the event. (Photo courtesy of Rita Silver)
2. Island Mermaid’s signature calamari.
3. The friendly staff at Island Mermaid’s buffet.
4. Participants pose with a complimentary event T-shirt. (Photo courtesy of Rita Silver)
5. Bloody Marys at Matthew’s Seafood House.



# OCEAN BEACH



## OCEAN BEACH BEAT by Kevin Lowry

MEMORIAL DAY IS behind us, summer is unofficially upon us and things are starting to happen. The Memorial Day weekend weather was marvelously cooperative for the first time in recent memory. The locals were out in force and the ferries were bursting with visitors. Sgt. Eric Kirchner of the OBPD said it was a record-breaking weekend with unprecedented numbers of calls for service, summonses and arrests.

The OBFD was seeing red at their annual blood drive to benefit the NY Blood Center. Assistant Chief Glen Roesch, who has run the drive for the last four years reports, "We held it at the Community House for the first time and it went a lot smoother than past years at the fire house." Thanks to all who participated.

The next weekend, the OB Community Fund hosted the first annual (sold out) Taste of Ocean Beach. Twelve restaurants and over 300 parched and famished revelers participated. It was a tremendously successful social event. An informal poll ranked Mathew's shrimp dipped Bloody Mary as the top adult beverage and Rachel's took top honors in the desert drink category.

Congrats to our new Trustees Ian Levine and Jennifer Moritz.



Kevin Schelling, superintendent of Public Works, also told us about a new initiative to tidy up the downtown streets and the public restrooms. All take-out restaurants will be provided with garbage cans right outside their front doors and a professional cleaning service has been hired by the Village on an experimental basis to clean the restrooms. The DPW will monitor both programs. Cleanliness and litter are among the top issues on the minds and lips of our villagers. Hopefully these efforts will prove fruitful.

Here are a few dates you may want to note. Our ferry friends will be moving from their late spring schedule June 23, giving us more options for comings and goings. Lifeguards are currently on duty Saturdays and Sundays only. Beginning June 24, they will expand coverage to seven days a week. Remember to swim between the flags and only when lifeguards are present. Last year was an active shark season on the East Coast. In response, according to Chief Lifeguard Jillian Weinstein, OB guards

have all new radios, a new Sea-Doo jet ski for daily patrols and the PD has a drone they use to survey the water daily. The OB Community Fund, for lifeguard safety, also sponsored the purchase of 10 Sharkbanz, which are electromagnetic bracelets meant to interfere with sharks' electroreception. We applaud these brave young citizens for their courageous service.

And here's the BIG news. Trustee Dawn Hargraves announced movie nights are coming back to OB at the Community House! Details to follow.



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## CATERING MENU

### SALADS

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Garden Salad</b> .....	<b>41/75</b>
Arugula & Romaine Mix, Tomato, Carrot, Red Onion, Black Olives, Cucumber, Mushrooms, Peppers, House Italian Dressing	
<b>Caesar Salad</b> .....	<b>48/86</b>
Romaine, Croutons, Shredded Parmesan Cheese & Caesar Dressing	
<b>Rocket Salad</b> .....	<b>63/104</b>
Arugula, Endive, Radicchio, Chopped Tomato, Strawberries, Red Wine Vinegar	
<b>Buffalo Salad</b> .....	<b>67/122</b>
Romaine Hearts, Buffalo Chicken Pieces, Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Carrots, Tomato, Bleu Cheese Dressing	

#### ADD ONS

Chopped .....	13/22
Buffalo Chicken on Salad .....	31/52
Grilled Shrimp on Salad .....	47/80
Grilled/Fried Chicken on Salad .....	31/52
Shredded Mozzarella .....	9/15.5

### ENTREES

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Chicken Marsala</b> .....	<b>92/164</b>
Battered Chicken Cutlets, Mushrooms, Marsala Wine Brown Sauce	
<b>Chicken Oreganata</b> .....	<b>92/164</b>
Baked Chicken, garlic & white wine "Scampi" sauce, toasted bread crumbs	
<b>Chicken Francese</b> .....	<b>92/164</b>
Battered chicken breasts in a classic francese sauce	
<b>Shrimp Oreganate</b> .....	<b>120/215</b>
Shrimp, asparagus, garlic & white wine "Scampi" sauce, toasted bread crumbs	
<b>Shrimp Francese</b> .....	<b>117/210</b>
Battered Jumbo Shrimp in a classic francese sauce	
<b>Chicken Primavera</b> .....	<b>86.5/147</b>
Grilled balsamic chicken, piled high with sautéed garden vegetables	
<b>Chicken Madeira</b> .....	<b>113/167</b>
Egg battered breast of chicken, topped with spinach & mozzarella, Madeira brown sauce, fresh mushrooms	
<b>Broccoli Rabe e Salsiccia</b> .....	<b>92/165</b>
Sautéed broccoli rabe, "Italian Style" sausage links, roasted garlic & virgin olive oil sauce	
<b>Sausage Pepper Onion</b> .....	<b>78/140</b>
Fresh Italian "Street Fair" style fennel sausage sautéed with fire roasted peppers & onions	

### SIDES

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Side Truffle OR Plain Fries</b> .....	<b>29/52</b>
<b>Side Spinach</b> .....	<b>53/96</b>
<b>Side Broccoli Spears</b> .....	<b>53/96</b>
<b>Side Broccoli Rabe</b> .....	<b>61/110</b>
<b>Side Mixed Vegetables</b> .....	<b>61/110</b>
<b>Grilled /Fried Chicken</b> .....	<b>70/125</b>

### APPETIZERS

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Buffalo Bites</b> .....	<b>39/55.5</b>
Crispy Chicken pieces tossed in our signature buffalo sauce side of blue cheese	
<b>Grilled Artichoke Hearts</b> .....	<b>53/97.5</b>
Grilled "Long Stem" artichokes topped with a E.V.O.O. drizzle and shredded Parmesan	
<b>Mozzarella Di Casa</b> .....	<b>70/125</b>
Homemade fresh mozzarella layered with vine ripe sliced tomatoes, marinated roasted peppers & basil, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil & aged balsamic vinegar	
<b>Calamari Arrabbiata</b> .....	<b>99/156</b>
Fried calamari, flame roasted peppers, spicy "arrabbiata" sauce	
<b>Garlic Knots</b> .....	<b>28/60</b>
36 pcs	
<b>Calamari Fritti</b> .....	<b>76.5/130</b>
Fried calamari, Marinara -OR- fra Diavolo	
<b>Chicken Fingers</b> .....	<b>60/99</b>
Golden fried & served with honey mustard & tomato sauce	
<b>Meatballs</b> .....	<b>58/105</b>
Homemade meatballs served with pomodoro sauce and a side of Ricotta	
<b>Mozzarella Donuts</b> .....	<b>68/115</b>
Golden Fried Breaded Mozzarella, served with a side of Marinara Sauce	
<b>Chicken Wings</b> .....	<b>58/99</b>
Buffalo/ BBQ/ Sweet & Spicy	

### PASTA

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Alla Vodka</b> .....	<b>77/138</b>
Diced Prosciutto di Parma, Creamy Vodka Pink Sauce	
<b>Madeira</b> .....	<b>88.6/151</b>
Battered Chicken Cutlets, Crushed Tomato, Mushroom, Madiera wine Brown Sauce, Tossed with Fresh Mozzarella	
<b>Fiorentina</b> .....	<b>87/157</b>
Chicken Pieces, Spinach, Fresh Mozzarella, Creamy Pink Sauce	
<b>Melenzane</b> .....	<b>77/138</b>
Roasted eggplant, Marsala infused plum tomato sauce, spooned Ricotta cheese	
<b>Shrimp Marinara</b> .....	<b>90/148</b>
Sautéed shrimp, "classic" Marinara or fra diavolo sauce	
<b>Zucchini Linguini &amp; Shrimp</b> .....	<b>94/151</b>
Julienne cut zucchini, fresh shrimp, Classic Marinara sauce	
<b>Casalunga</b> .....	<b>87/157</b>
Broccoli rabe, grilled chicken, roasted garlic & herb brodino	
<b>Caprese</b> .....	<b>74/133</b>
Marinara Sauce, Fresh Mozzarella Pieces, Basil	
<b>Pasta &amp; Meatballs</b> .....	<b>87/151</b>
Marinara sauce, Homemade Meatballs	
<b>Primavera</b> .....	<b>82/148</b>
Sautéed Vegetables over Pasta in Garlic & Oil	
<b>Pasta Shrimp Oreganata</b> .....	<b>92/164</b>
Pasta tossed with Shrimp, asparagus, garlic & white wine "Scampi" sauce, toasted bread crumbs	
<b>Bolognese</b> .....	<b>77/138</b>
Our Signature Veal Meat Sauce over Rigatoni pasta, Topped with a Ricotta Crown	
<b>Pesto</b> .....	<b>69/122</b>
Pasta in a basil sauce, tossed with pine nuts & Fresh arugula	

### BAKED PASTA CLASSICS

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Baked Ziti</b> .....	<b>65/117</b>
Just Like Grandma's	
<b>Baked Ziti Siciliana</b> .....	<b>68/126</b>
Classic Baked Ziti with diced Eggplant	

### PARMIGIANA

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Meatball Parmigiana</b> .....	<b>74/133</b>
<b>Eggplant Parmigiana</b> .....	<b>74/133</b>
<b>Eggplant Rollatine</b> .....	<b>80/145</b>
Fresh battered eggplant rolled with seasoned ricotta, baked "Parmigiana Style" with tomato sauce & mozzarella cheese	
<b>Chicken Parmigiana</b> .....	<b>80/145</b>
<b>Shrimp Parmigiana</b> .....	<b>102/183</b>
Grilled or Fried	

### DESSERTS

	Card Price
	HALF/FULL
<b>Broken Cannoli</b> .....	<b>53/77.5</b>
<b>Zeppoli</b> .....	<b>42/69</b>

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# OCEAN BAY PARK



by Barbara Gaby Placilla

THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE were flying high as summer unfurled this Memorial Day weekend in Ocean Bay Park. At times, it felt like the partying would never end and the crowds would never leave. We survived, as we always do, albeit some of us by repeating the mantra - one big weekend down and two to go!

Fran and Wally Lobo kicked off the season with a fantastic party at their home on Seneca Street to start the weekend. There was an eclectic mix of people, great food, lots of bubbles and the opportunity to recognize Wally, a World War II Marine Corps veteran for his service to our country

On Sunday, Ocean Bay Park Movie Night On the Beach returned thanks to our trio of movie mavens: Rob Kuhar who brought the movie set up, Paul Brincat who provided the technical support and Eric Snyder who gave a very thorough overview of the background and progression of the "Jurassic Park" movies. He was as entertaining and informative as any of the PBS Channel 13 hosts. Last year's presentation was "Jaws" and the first film of this summer was Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park." Just like in the good old days the movie was preceded by a Looney Tunes cartoon. There were about 30 or so of us gathered on the Ontario Street beach wrapped in blankets against the cold under an almost full moon. Due to the cold (and possibly those vicious

velociraptors) by the time the movie was over, there were only 10 of us who had braved it out to the end. The next Movie Night on the Beach will tentatively coincide with the July 4 weekend.

Last year, Irene Fazio and Liz Guber proposed a community bay beach beautification project in the form of a memorial/commemorative walk brick path to replace the old wooden walkway. At the OBP Association winter meeting in Manhattan, Liz Guber gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the project and how positive gain will go toward future community infrastructure improvement projects. The brick path has been completed and it looks fantastic. To date over 60 memorial bricks have been purchased and have covered 100% of the cost. Thank you to all who purchased bricks and especially Arnold and Alice Kotzen, whose donation kick-started the program; the FIA; and the local businesses. Special thanks to



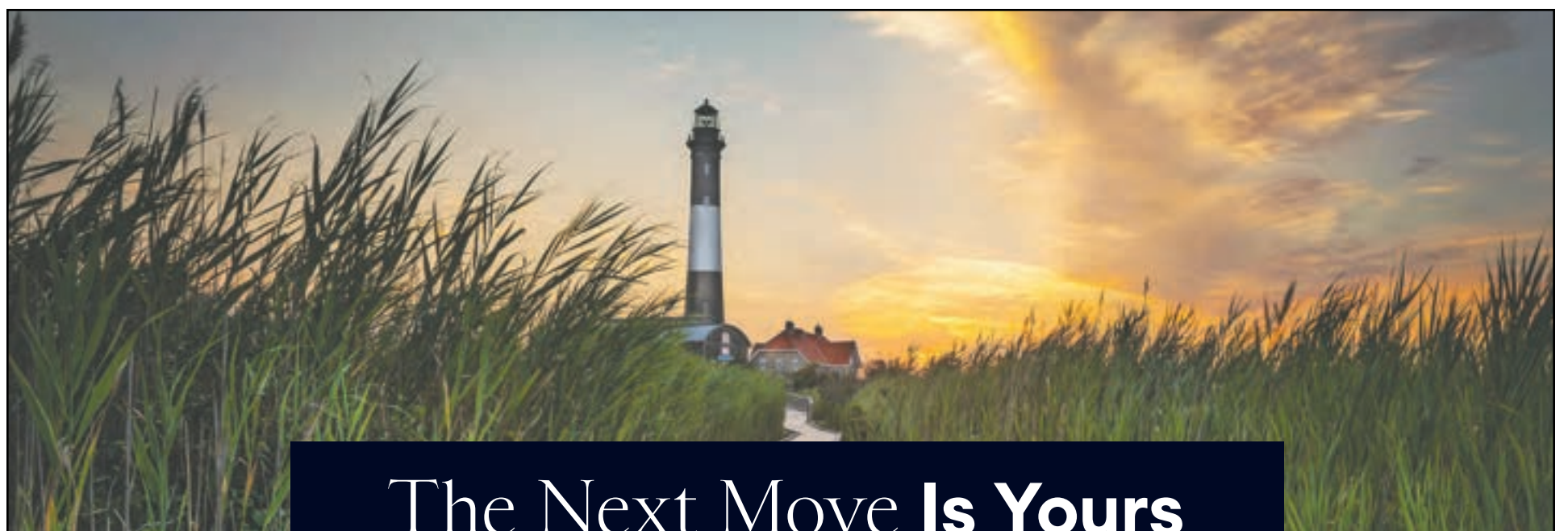
Eric Snyder at OBP Movie Night on the Beach.

Vannoni Construction who provided their services. A formal dedication date is to be announced.

I am pleased to report that the Ocean Bay Park FD has two new members, Steven Jaffe and Johnny Miller, who passed the intensive 16-week Suffolk County FRES Firefighter I course just in time for the busy summer season. Now is the time to make sure you change the batteries in your smoke detectors and check the date on your fire extinguisher. If you don't have them, please get them. They save lives.

Congratulations to all the recent graduates, among them Sofia Borges who graduated from LIU Brooklyn's Roc Nation School of Music, Sports and Entertainment with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Technology, Entrepreneurship and Production.

SAVE THE DATE: **June 24** Block Party on Ocean Bay Boulevard. Fun, Food, Games!



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# The Mile-Long Rainbow Flag

By Warren Boyd Wexler

IT WAS THE 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riot, which had launched the modern struggle for gay rights. The centerpiece of the celebration was a mile-long, avenue-wide rainbow flag made by Gilbert Baker, who had created the original rainbow flag 15 years earlier for a gay pride march in San Francisco. The mile-long flag was the visual symbol of the massive International March on the United Nations for Gay and Lesbian Rights, held on Sunday, June 26, 1994, one of the largest civil rights demonstrations ever held.

I worked with Gilbert Baker, a few other assistants, and 1,000 volunteers to unfurl the huge flag along First Avenue past the United Nations. Handling three-and-a-half tons of nylon is not easy. It requires a lot of organization. We unfurled it from the back of a truck on First Avenue at 37th Street, two of us at the front breaking open the strings binding it every few feet while the volunteers lined up on either side of us to take the edge of the fabric as we released it and carry it forward up the avenue. After half an hour of breaking open the strings

and the nylon fabric rushing through my hands, my fingers were bleeding, bleeding onto the flag. A woman on my left fortunately was carrying some antiseptic and poured it over my hands so that I could continue as the endless line of volunteers filed past taking up the newly unfurled sections and carrying the flag ever further up First Avenue, until the rainbow stretched to the horizon, 22 blocks long.



**New York NY/USA-June 26, 1994 Giant one mile long Rainbow Flag is unfurled on First Ave. in New York City during the celebration and Gay Pride Day/Stonewall 25 Parade.** (Photo: rblfmr/Shutterstock)

There was a second march taking place at the same time, tens of thousands of people coming up Fifth Avenue from the Stonewall bar in Greenwich Village to join the main march at 57th Street for the rally in Central Park. The city, under Mayor Rudy Giuliani's direction, had refused to grant a permit for Fifth Avenue, which for over 20 years had been the traditional venue for the annual Gay Pride Parade. Several

of us had spent the Thursday and Friday before the march in Federal Court seeking a permit for the Fifth Avenue march, which was denied. Gilbert Baker and many others felt strongly that the Fifth Avenue marchers, including many of the activist groups and the surviving veterans of the original Stonewall rebellion, deserved to have the rainbow flag, or at least a section of it,

with them marching up Fifth Avenue. But the company funding the making of the mile-long flag, which technically "owned" it, was against our bringing any part of the rainbow flag to the "illegal" march on Fifth Avenue, and denied us permission to do so. Gilbert, myself, and four others decided to try and do it anyway, and planned a covert operation to bring the flag to Fifth Avenue.

The mile-long flag was now fully unfurled up First Avenue, a thrilling sight for all of us there and for the millions more watching on TV. The official schedule now called for the flag to be folded back up and removed for storage. Instead, as per our secret plan, Gilbert whipped out a large pair of cutting shears and cut across the 30-foot width, severing several sections, each a couple of hundred feet long, from the end of the flag. Those of us in on it rushed forward to gather the sections, hurriedly stuffing each into large black garbage bags that we had brought with us for this purpose. We did this as quickly as we could, knowing that at any second those around us might realize this wasn't supposed to be happening, and bring in the cops. We dashed with our sections out of the march and west across town, Jude Graham and myself carrying one cumbersome bag between us,

Jim Laurent alongside us, on rollerblades, carrying a second section by himself. I headed us into the subway at 42nd Street.

Maneuvering this large bag of material between Jude and myself down the flight of subway steps was difficult enough, but how Jim managed it on rollerblades, carrying this black garbage bag larger than himself, clunking down each subway step on his rollerblades, I'll never know. We got off the train at 28th Street and ran with our precious bundles into the throng of onlookers filling the sidewalks on Fifth Avenue. I waited a few minutes until there was a break between oncoming groups of marchers. With the Act Up contingent approaching, I dashed us out into the middle of Fifth Avenue, lowered the bags onto the avenue and began pulling the fabric out. I yelled out to the mass of onlookers on both sides of the avenue: "These are two sections of the mile-long Rainbow Flag by Gilbert Baker. If you'd like to help carry the gay flag up Fifth Avenue, this is your chance." A guy on my right rushed over to grab an end. A woman across the avenue dashed in to pick up another end. People came in from all sides to touch the flag, to grab onto an edge, to lift it aloft. I saw Diana Stokke, one of the two people who had brought the suit in Federal Court to grant a permit for the Fifth Avenue march, rush into the street to grab a corner of the flag and raise it high overhead. In 45 seconds, some 60 of us were carrying the flag over our heads, marching with it up Fifth Avenue to the screaming applause of those around us as we carried the Rainbow Flag up Fifth Avenue and into the rally in Central Park.

Four sections of the mile-long Rainbow Flag made it over to the Fifth Avenue march. For my efforts in all of this, I was given, by Gilbert, one of the sections of the flag. I'm one of the handful of people who live year-round in Cherry Grove, one of the capitals of the world-wide gay community, a wonderful town filled, in a sense, with outlaws. I think it's appropriate for me to have given this section of the rainbow flag, seized in a covert, unsanctioned action, to Cherry Grove, appropriate for it to adorn Cherry Grove's Community House, appropriate for it to be draped across the Queens' Boat in our annual July 4 freedom celebration. I hope it will be carried proudly for many uses in the coming years.

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# CHERRY GROVE/FIRE ISLAND PINES



ROSE'S VIEW by Robert Levine

## HAPPY GAY PRIDE MONTH!

Hail Queen Porsche – the glamorous, voluptuous, friendly, and talented 48th Homecoming Queen of Cherry Grove 2023. She accepted the crown from the gracious JizzaBella. The race was close. Sugar B. Real, Ginger Moore, and Flagerina were all strong contenders! Panzi was hostess. Champagne Bubbles performed. Thanks to all the local businesses who contributed raffle gifts, as well as all the volunteers who worked the evening, especially Michael Moran, as well as supporters Evelyn Danko and Valerie Perez.

Ginger Snap and Wanda Sykes were fantastic MCs at the Lynn Lewis Foundation Breast Cancer event at the Ice Palace. Attendance was overwhelming.

BOFFO in the Pines is celebrating its 12th season of artist residents. This year, filmmaker and photographer Clifford Prince King was introduced at Sunday Sounds, a beach party with DJ Donis.

The Annual Women's Meet and Greet was well attended at Sip N Twirl prior to the Annual Pines Care Center party at Whyte Hall.

CGCAI welcomed CGDEI (Cherry Grove Diversity Equity Inclusion) at a gathering at the Community House. Kay Davis introduced the board and welcomed everyone. She spoke about Juneteenth weekend, with events scheduled in both the Pines and the Grove through June 16-18. The weekend is



The Cherry Grove Diversity Equity Inclusion at the Community House.

chock full of entertainment, parties, salon gatherings and a parade along the beach.

Congratulations to Joan Van Nes, presently serving 40 years in the Cherry Grove Volunteer Fire Department, who now holds the title Certified Incident Safety Officer.

Sal Piro Day at the Ice Palace was wonderful. Many local residents spoke. Sal's sister Liliars arrived from New Jersey to participate.

APCG thespian and one of our favorite sisters, Lynn Belensky, passed away recently. She will be forever remembered in our hearts.

Cherry Grove will be getting new walk posts and new bulletin boards led by the Beautification Team and funded by the Memorial Fund. Thank you, Town of Brookhaven for painting the sides of our walks white this year. We, the property owners, have done it for the last 50 years.

## Upcoming Events:

- Brace yourselves, Bear weekend begins **June 9!**
- Susan Ann Thornton is spearheading the 10th Anniversary of The Artist Tour in Cherry Grove. On **June 9**, a cocktail party and auction for the Dunes Fund will commence from 6-9 p.m. at the Community House. Visit [artisttourcg.com](http://artisttourcg.com) to learn more.
- The Imperial Court Of New York is having their annual Drag Tag Sale on **June 11**, at noon.
- Celebrate Judy Garland's 101st birthday, at Get Happy, a fundraiser for APCG and the Rainbow Connection, **June 11**, at 12:30 p.m., at "Ethel's Merman," the home of Adam Rosen and Matt Freeman.
- On **June 17**, Broadway Inspirational Voices will be appearing at Whyte Hall. Visit [FIPAP.org](http://FIPAP.org) to learn more.
- CG EMS and Ambulance Fire Department volunteers will be in CG **until Oct. 29**. The Northwell Doctors Office is open through Labor Day.

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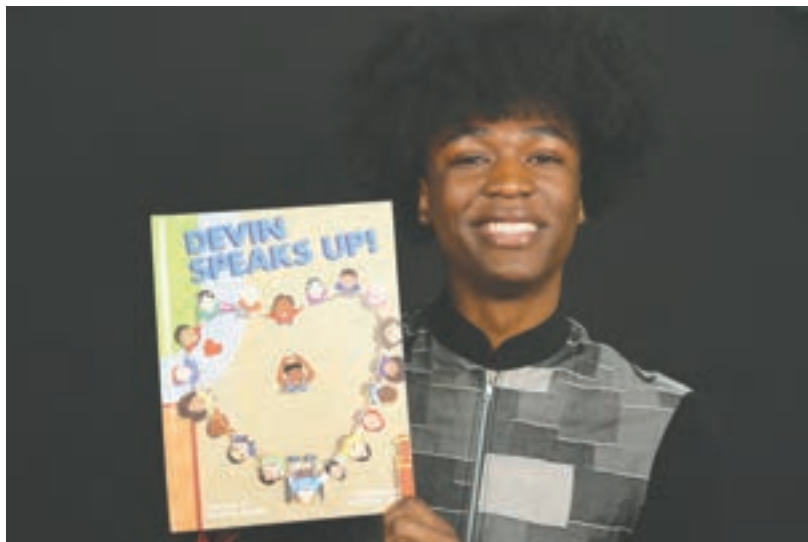
# Devin's Crusade

By Christopher Verga

ACCORDING TO THE Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 20-28% of school-age children between 9th to 12th grade are bullied. That number more than triples to 70% for lesbian, gay, or bisexual high schoolers, according to the Tyler Clementi Foundation. Over 70% of school staff members witness kids getting bullied in school. From the initial statistic of reported bullying, 59% occur through cyberbullying. Furthering a sense of urgency is the staggering 20% of all suicides are between the ages of 15-24. The CDC details that the best way to combat bullying is to connect youth with caring adults, create protective environments, and plan to intervene when bullying occurs. But unlike a paid specialist, some of the most effective programs that implement these strategies can come from someone who bears the brunt of bullying.

In 2017, 15-year-old Devin Moore of Bay Shore discovered his classmates posted a picture of him photoshopped

as a gorilla on social media. The following week other students sent him memes that read, "Black people were not functioning members of society," with an image of a noose. After multiple complaints, Devin's school was slow to respond. Ursula Moore, Devin's mother, noticed her son's anxiety about attending school and retained a lawyer to have the school take action against the kids bullying her son. But Devin refused to be powerless and wanted to action right away. Devin used Instagram to create a page called #RaceToSpeakUP. Following the startup of the Instagram account, Devin had kids share stories of bullying throughout the country. The account's success inspired Devin to collaborate with other organizations on antibullying, including Virginian Parents Against Bullying, Long Island Collation of Bullying, Chicago-based



differences. It is not okay to tear someone down physically and mentally because of skin color, size, religion, or sexuality."

"My son turned this negativity into an act of urgency to advocate for bully-


ing victims," said Moore. "Devin witnessed how bullying can be covered up in school and started this public forum to expose the problem." As of October 2022, Devin's organization had made its next move into children's books and curriculum writing. His latest book, "Devin Speaks Up!" details acceptance of everyone's individuality and loving who you are. In part of self-acceptance, it further describes how to stand up to and for those bullied and praises upstanders. An upstander is detailed as someone who does not participate in the bullying but stands up to bullies. "Devin Speaks Up!" is focused on an elementary school audience, which cements the CDC recommendation for preschool enrichment for bullying prevention.

organization Humanity Rising, and the Islip Town NAACP. This forum evolved into webinars, a podcast with guests who discuss bullying prevention, and collaborating with other bullied kids to push for state legislation to make all school district bullying incidents public in a "district bullying report." The success of this campaign created Suffolk County's Youth Antibullying Task Force. The 14-member task force, headed by Devin, proposed ideas that made school bullying a statistical measure for school safety and proposed expanding the current state teacher requirement Dignity for All Students training (DASA) to all school workers. During the county legislator meeting about his proposed ideas, Devin stated, "We must learn how to embrace each other's

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*Around the Bend at the East End*



Cartoon by Zinc Pedersen





# DAVIS PARK



EAST ENDERS by Lisa Daglian

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE Memorial Day has already passed. Hope yours was as memorable as ours, as we took a moment to thank those who served. We also thanked our volunteer firefighters, who are there to keep us safe at all times. The DPFDF held an open house to demonstrate how to put out fires and proudly showed off their equipment. Don't forget to support them (Maybe become a member? Pick up a raffle ticket or two?). Also don't forget the DPA spring meeting this weekend at the church, lots to cover, and a free raffle there for pie and other nifty prizes.

We had many other moments to commemorate as well. A lovely celebration of life was held for Bob White at the Church and firehouse – even the chilly rain couldn't dampen the warmth family and friends brought to the day as we were regaled with tales of Bob's life (and a Jets reference or two).

We've spent our time celebrating several of our neighbors lately. Congratulations on their nuptials to Jim Behrendt and Ceal Salvante, and to Liz Underwood and Dan Percival. Mazel tov! We didn't get any of their wedding cake, yet, but did have two pieces of ice cream cake at Joseph Pino's 17th birthday bash, surrounded by his amazing family and growing crew of friends. We also got to toast Jan Mauck at Turtle



Paige and Alyssa – lovely moms to be.

Cove on her big day, with Bill, Kathie Howe, Nancy, Paula and Heather in attendance. Cheers!

We were hoping for a fish fry for Angelina Dixon's 9th birthday, as we heard she was learning to fish in the bay to mark the day, but we'll settle for fish tales. We'll also wait for a recap of the brunch that Anne and Joel threw for Justin Irvine to mark his special day. A different special day was Gladis Granados' graduation from Suffolk's Honors

Program, with Distinction. Awesome! Some days we don't want to miss are coming up soon for proud parents to be. It was great to see Lauren and Thomas "Smitty" Smith out and about (and glowing) in advance of their big day, and Paige Popdan and Alyssa Suhr showing off their future next gen DPer.

Some days you just feel like celebrating being at the beach, and we saw a lot of that in our quest for news. It was great to welcome Jay Zahn home from Ireland for the summer and to see niece Katie Daglian out for her first weekend of the season. Serena, Crista, Charlie, Kim, Paul, Paul and Brian were the welcoming committee for Deb Pyle, while Betty and Lynn and Maura and Mark entertained each other at dinner. The Barts were in bloom after picking up plants to brighten their deck and benefit the community at the C.R.A.B. sale, tended to by Marlene, Lorraine and Brian.

There is so much going on and we can use your help...please send your tips, tidbits and tattles to DPRidgeFI@gmail.com. See you around the walks!



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# SAYVILLE/PATCHOGUE



SAYVILLE STORIES by Linda Leuzzi

## A Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award Finalist Comes to Sayville

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY you get a Pulitzer Prize finalist and a National Book Award for Non-Fiction finalist to speak at a garden club luncheon, but that's what happened recently when the Sayville Garden Club hosted author Victoria Johnson, professor of Urban Policy and Planning at Hunter College, at Land's End Restaurant.

Her book, "American Eden: David Hosack, Botany and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic," chronicles the story of Hosack, who created the first 20-acre public botanical garden in the U.S., part of which is now under Rockefeller Center.

"I want to take you to Manhattan in 1797, a doctor, David Hosack, is rushing to administer to a 15-year-old boy at No. 26 Broadway, in the grip of a terrible fever," she began. "He knew doctors had brought down fevers with cold cloths then, but he drew a steaming bath, and mixed in a botanical remedy called Peruvian bark, then several bottles of alcohol, lowered the boy's body in, then added smelling salts. The boy's pulse began to quicken. Hosack took him out of the bath, swaddled him with blankets and remained in a nearby room, dozing. When Hosack awoke, Alexander Hamilton was kneeling by his son's bedside. He took Hosack's hand in thanks for saving his son, Philip, and became a friend and advisor."

That incident propelled Hosack towards his lifelong journey to create the nation's first botanical garden. He persevered, steadily advancing towards his goal, in spite of ridicule, disappointments, and personal tragedies, never faltering.

Johnson riveted the crowd with Hosack's story, an ardent doctor who first studied medicine and botany in Great Britain; in Edinburgh he discovered his passion, botany, and learned that most of the medicines of the time came from the plant world. But he didn't know what specific plants cured illness. "He felt it was a matter of life and death for America's future," Johnson said. In London, he roamed the wilds and identified plants and dissected them. "After two years there, he was the best trained botanist in the U.S. He was 25."

There's a skill in writing a book like this, that takes you back to the time when our nation was young and was dealing with diseases that were wiping out families; he advocated for smallpox vaccinations early on. But also, that era was a rollicking one for party politics, indeed there were fears the country would fall apart, but also committed civic engagement. Although he became friends with and knew many of the heavy hitters of the day, like Thomas Jefferson, he stayed out of any partisan allegiances. Even after Hamilton's death in the 1804 duel with Aaron Burr (he attended to him when he was gravely wounded and was devastated), Hosack remained friends with Burr. He believed a good doctor depended on neutrality.



**Author Victoria Johnson was the featured speaker at the recent Sayville Garden Club luncheon. Johnson, holding her book, is flanked by (left to right) Co-President Kate Rowe, Co-President Marge Ort, and First Vice President Gini Tucker.**

In 1801, after purchasing 20 acres of land, he established The Elgin Botanic Garden. While Peruvian bark was effective, it was scarce and expensive, as were other medicinal plants. So he set out collecting thousands of species. "The Elgin Botanic Garden was created down a winding road surrounded by trees and plants. He built a spectacular structure, a 200-foot glass house flanked by hot houses," Johnson said. "Between 1801 and 1811 he collected over 3,000 plants. He used the garden to conduct the first pharmaceutical research in the U.S. He became one of the most famous men of his time."

There's a lot more, but you'd have to read Johnson's book. Trust us. It's brilliant and fascinating.

Johnson said it took eight years to write, between teaching stints. Her research led her to local and far-off places. "I went to over 30 archival collections including the New York Historical Society, Library of Congress, New York Public Library archives, New York Academy of Medicine, New York Botanical Garden, and some archives in the United Kingdom, in London and Edinburgh. It's the most fun I ever had, being on that trail where maybe I'll find a piece of paper here, then something unexpected there. One thing was, I thought I'd tell the story of a botanical garden but what I discovered reading Hosack's papers and those of friends of his, I was in awe how civic-minded they were and the foundations they established. I discovered he was part of this group of young people, women included, who had grown up looking to their elders and were possessed by this energy and shaping civic life so that it was stable and putting the U.S. on the new ground. The other thing entrancing was anything I found out about Manhattan Island, New Jersey and Long Island covered with plants and fields and thinking of that time when it was so alien to us now. Those people tramping through fields and collecting plants."

Johnson's epiphany about Hosack came when she read a book about the New York Botanical Garden,

founded in 1891. "In this book, there were a couple of pages about this man who founded a much earlier botanical garden and I'd never heard about him. Then I read a sentence that that land is now Rockefeller Center. I thought it was such a cool New York story. I had to know about this."

During the presentation, Johnson was asked what struck her the most about Hosack. "It was a perseverance with this vision to create these institutions (New York Historical Society, Museum of Natural History, first public schools and others) to help fellow Americans. It governed his every waking minute. He was endowed with brilliance, and he took this gift and put it into his city and nation. Without that type of person our civic life would be impoverished."

Living with a subject for eight years, did she ever feel his presence? Johnson laughed. "I had such a strong connection with him. My sister, Jessica, a painter and musician, called him 'your dead lover.' I visited his grave and met descendants. There were two branches, both came who never met each other at my book party. They were so supportive of the book."



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# BAY SHORE



by Maria DeKoning

## Main Street Fun and Renovations

The annual Bay Shore Memorial Day parade is a special day for those who have lost loved ones in battle or want to celebrate our local veterans. The parade kicked off a little early, with some locals riding their bikes down to Main Street and setting up chairs or sitting on the curb, waiting for the parade to pass. On the beautiful day in town, vets and families mixed with beachgoers on their way to the Fire Island ferry on Maple, lining Main Street and visiting the local establishments to celebrate the holiday.

Over the years, we have seen Main Street evolve to welcome new businesses and shops, among them Lilybug's Pet Spa, 263 West Main St. This family-owned and -operated pet grooming



Bay Shore Blue the Pitbull.

boutique offers cage free luxury grooming and one on one service. Main Street is now also home to Milano Bean Café, which took over the space formerly occupied by Salon Eden at 6 East Main St. Like its first location at 51 West Main St., East Islip, the café takes inspiration from Milan, Italy, and will be serving classic espresso drinks and fresh baked goods in a cozy home-like atmosphere.

Established restaurant Salt & Barrel, 61 West Main St., continues to offer its Oyster Happy Hour everyday, as well as its Bottomless Brunch on Saturday and Sunday. Another Bay Shore staple since 2014, Verde will be moving to a larger location. "Although the decision to leave 70 E. Main was very

difficult for us, it's been a long time coming," said owners and brothers Andy and Andrew Tartaglia. The restaurant's new address will be 55 West Main, previously inhabited by Peninsula Asian Fusion, which closed this past February, and will be reopened under a new name currently being determined.

Alive by the Bay is returning this month. The full schedule is every other Tuesday night: June 27, July 11, July 25, and Aug. 8. Run by the Bay Shore Restaurant Committee (BSRC), Main Street will be closed from 5 to 9 p.m. during these Tuesday summer evenings and will be lined with vendors, live bands, and much more. If you would like to be a vendor or volunteer on any of these days, please visit the BSRC Facebook for more information.

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# CALENDAR >> by Lorna Luniewski | editor@fireislandnews.com

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10 Living History



Town of Islip will host its Living History Day, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Islip Grange Park, Broadway Avenue, Sayville. Historical Societies and historians will be on site to give a glimpse of life in times past in this park where historic buildings that played a part in that history will be the background for the event. Walk on a rural Islip Town road, see a water mill, barn and a house that was once a silent witness to Islip soldiers marching off to defend the Union, and more. This will be a day for all ages, as events (including games and activities) will make history come alive for young and old alike. For details, call 631-224-5430.

## National Get Outdoors Day!

Enjoy sunset from the upper deck of the Wilderness Visitor Center, William Floyd Parkway (Route 46) to Smith Point County Park, with an evening of sea chanties with The Shipmates, from 6:30-8 p.m. Sing, clap along or bring your own acoustic instrument and play along. Free parking is available in the lot. To register, email FIIS\_Information@nps.gov or call 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays).

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11 Artist Reception

Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, hosts a reception, from noon to 2 p.m., for a collaborative exhibit with Craftsman David Ebner and Photographer Raymond Germann, on display through July 2, Thursday-Sunday, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, call 631-581-1002.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 13 Tiny Trekkers

Preschoolers will explore the wonder of nature and learn how animals deal with the different seasons through hikes, scavenger hunts and arts-n-crafts, today and the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 1-2 p.m., at South Shore Nature Center, 130 Bayview Ave., East Islip.

Cost: \$10 per child and caregiver. For required registration, visit seatuck.org.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16 Juneteenth Weekend Events

Black and Brown Equity Coalition hosts a weekend of events June 16-19, in Cherry Grove and the Pines, including the Mx. Juneteenth FI Pageant, JuneTeas, a beach solidarity walk on Saturday at 1 p.m., and much more. For more information, text Juneteenth23 to 41444.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17 Concert

FIPAP and FIPPOA's Committee on Black Equity (CoBe) present Broadway Inspirational Voices, at Whyte Hall, Fire Island Pines, with cocktails at 5 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20. For details, visit www.FIPAP.org.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18 Go Fishing with Dad!

Celebrate Father's Day by taking Dad fishing, from 1-2:30 p.m., at Wilderness Visitor Center, William Floyd Parkway (Route 46) to Smith Point County Park, where parking is available in the lot for a fee. After an introduction to fish, bait and gear, practice your surf casting technique using your own gear or borrow ours (supply is limited). For ages 12 and older; ages 16 and older please complete NYS DEC marine fishing registry in advance. To register, email FIIS\_Information@nps.gov or call 631-281-3010 (weekends) or 631-687-4780 (weekdays).

## TUESDAY, JUNE 20 Women's Wellness Webinar

Northwell Health Katz Institute for Women's Health presents a free online seminar, from 7-8 p.m., entitled "Fun in the Sun: Essential Skin Care Tips for Summer." The skin is the largest organ of our bodies. It acts as a gatekeeper to ward off bacteria from our environment, but from natural wear and tear over time – and especially from neglect and/or lack of sun protection – it can become damaged. Join Northwell Health experts and learn about how to keep your skin beautiful and healthy. To register, visit eventbrite.com. Google Chrome is suggested to join this Zoom webinar.

For more information or questions, email womenshealth@northwell.edu.

## Friday, June 23 Pride Month: Rainbow Lantern Walk

A popular lantern walk with a Pride Month twist is held at Heckscher State Park, East Islip, from 8-9:30 p.m. Explore the park after dark with the ambiance of rainbow-colored lanterns. Reservations are required. Visit Eventbrite.com and search #NatureAdventure.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24 OB Flea Market

A fundraiser for the Ocean Beach Fire Department is held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Ball Field. Donated items and baked goods greatly appreciated. Rain date: June 25. Space: \$25; chairs (\$5) and tables (\$45) available for rent. For information, call Gail at 516-312-6774 or Blair at 631-219-1052.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 27 Alive by the Bay

Main Street in Bay Shore comes alive with food, vendors and live music, tonight, July 11 and 25 and Aug. 8,

from 5-9 p.m. Tonight, four stages feature live music by Rich Mahogany, No Request Band, Fiesta Tropical and Tom Cilmi. For details, visit the Bay Shore Restaurant Committee Facebook page.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 29 Babylon Block Party

Babylon Village Chamber of Commerce and Babylon Restaurant Association are planning five block parties for the summer season: tonight, July 13 and 27 and Aug. 17 and 31 (rain dates the following Thursdays), all from 5-9 p.m., along Deer Park Avenue, which will be closed. The events feature live music, vendors, outdoor dining, food trucks and more. For vendor information, email eventsbvcc@gmail.com.

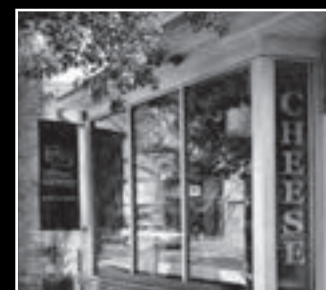
## Alive After Five

Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce holds its popular free summer street fair along Main Street, at 5 p.m., with live music and entertainment, craft and retail vendors, food trucks, children's activities and much more. Additional dates: July 13 and 27 and Aug. 10. Rain date: Aug. 17. For details, visit patchogue.com.



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ADULT COLORING PAGE >> by Lauren Stevens

# Everything All at Once



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# OP-ED: Share the Shore: Protect Endangered Piping Plovers this Summer

By Dana Hillebrecht

AS SPRING APPROACHES and the weather begins to warm, remember that humans are not the only ones flocking to our beautiful Fire Island beaches. Piping plovers, one of the smallest shorebirds, are also gathering on the beach as their breeding season begins.

Piping plovers are endangered, and it is our responsibility to help them. The biggest issue they are currently facing is habitat loss, a problem caused by humans. As the summer starts, we can help plovers by watching out for them and respecting their space as we both enjoy the beach.

Piping plover mating season begins in mid-March, when these birds arrive on their breeding grounds and begin to make their nests. They nest above the high tide mark, in the soft sand just below where the grasses grow. Plovers often return to the same area and mate year after year. During May and June, plovers will lay an egg every other day until they have a complete clutch. The normal clutch size is four eggs but may be only three if the pair's first nesting attempt is not successful. The plovers then go through an incubation period of 25 to 31 days. Once the young have hatched, they fledge (grow all their feathers and learn to fly) after 28 to 35 days (NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation).

Sadly, because of their limited numbers, piping plovers have been designated an endangered species in New York State. They were threatened almost to

extinction around the turn of the century, an extreme reached by hunting for meat and for sport. They received some protection after the passing of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act but are still being threatened by humans. Through development in coastal regions, driving in off road vehicles, and recreational activities, we have succeeded in greatly reducing the plovers' habitat. The Atlantic Coast piping plover population consists of around only 800 breeding pairs, 200 of which reside in New York during breeding season. Last summer was their least successful breeding year in recent memory (NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation).

As we move into this year's piping plover breeding season, we must take action to protect this species. Their health is incredibly important as they are an indicator species, meaning they're sensitive to their surroundings and therefore act as a gauge for the environmental well being of an ecosystem. If their numbers were to decrease sharply, that would be a warning that something was not right in the ecosystem and other species may soon follow suit. Thankfully, it is easy for us to help (CBS News)

Sections of the beach will be fenced off by the National Parks Service, but it's important to be aware on all areas of the beach. Piping plovers are quite small, and their young and eggs are even smaller. In addition, their sandy speckled coloring camouflages

them quite well. Even down past the area where they nest, it's important to watch your step as the piping plovers make their way down to the water to feed. Other steps you can take to protect the plovers including keeping your dog on a leash, carrying out your trash, and keeping your kites away from plover nests (they can be seen as aerial predators) (City of New York).

In addition to helping the piping plovers, you will also be helping yourself. Plovers eat fly larvae, marine worms, beetles, and other small organisms, so your actions are also creating a more pest free beach experience for you (Animal Diversity).

I have been a member of the Fire Island community for my whole life, and I look forward to seeing the plovers return each summer. In addition to being adorable, the fact that they choose our beach to birth and raise their young is an honor. I don't want there to be a summer when they no longer make that choice.

The piping plovers are an iconic part of the shoreline, and one that needs all hands on deck to protect. So, the next time you're at the beach, just remember to share the shore and look out for our little feathered friends.

*Dana Hillebrecht is an Environmental Studies major studying at Bowdoin College. She has been a resident of Fair Harbor her entire life.*



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## Your Guide to an Allergy-Free Home

By Laura Wheatman Hill

'TIS THE SEASON – allergy season, that is. If you're one of the 50 million people who struggle with allergies, you may already be feeling the effects of outside pollutants.

But while the outdoors may feel like a war zone to your sinuses and nasal passages, at home, you want to be safe from symptoms. Mitchell Boxer, MD, an internal medicine doctor specializing in allergies and immunology with Northwell Health, provides his tips for making your home as allergen-free as possible.

### Entrances

When it comes to house points of entry, there are certain things that may help minimize potential for allergy exposure. While Boxer says there isn't a specific type of window or door that's better than another, keep an eye out for leaks, which can lead to mold and mildew. Be sure to check that everything seals tight.

You can bring allergens from in outdoors on your clothes and shoes. "Taking off your shoes before entering your house can be helpful in lessening the spread of allergens," says Boxer. Changing clothes when you get home may also be helpful.

Also pay special attention to your pets. "Wipe down your animals with a damp towel to remove pollen on their fur or hair," he adds.

Additionally, animals may be a source of poison ivy exposure, so if you are predisposed to poison ivy, be sure to wipe down your animals and wear gloves while you do so.

### Air filtration

Air circulation is another important consideration when allergies are an issue for members of your household. Boxer says dust mites can live in air conditioning and heating ducts. Because of this, he says it's important to change filters in the duct work, and make sure to get those systems serviced regularly.

"A HEPA air filter is the most cost-effective way to lessen allergen exposure," says Boxer, and stresses "to change the pre-filter regularly so that the machine operates effectively."

### Living rooms

In your living spaces, Boxer says the best rule to follow overall is to "minimize fabrics in the home." That means that for flooring, "wood

or tile is the way to go as it's easy to clean." If you must have carpet or rugs, vacuum regularly, as often as needed to keep your symptoms at bay.

The same goes for furniture. You'll want to choose items that are easy to clean, such as leather or wood, as they will be better for allergy sufferers compared to their fabric-upholstered counterparts. Similarly, avoid fabric curtains.

Boxer also suggests keeping an eye on your house plants. "Indoor plants themselves are not problematic – however, dust and mold that can grow on plants."

### Bedrooms

As hard as it may be to say no to your fur baby, Boxer says, "Don't let the pets in your bedroom." He suggests a HEPA filter for the room where the animal sleeps and to bathe and groom it regularly. You should also clean its bed frequently, especially during high pollen season.

When it comes to your own bedding, Boxer says, the less pillows the better. "It's good to have a comfortable, breathable encasing around the mattress, box spring, and pillows."

Additionally, he suggests removing dust collectors like books and stuffed animals from children's bedrooms.

### Other rooms

From an allergy perspective, other key rooms to consider include the kitchen and bathroom. The main allergen in these rooms is mold, which can be prevented with regular cleaning and special attention to making sure there are no leaks.

Under the house is another source of allergies. "Basements and crawl spaces are sources of unexpected mold," says Boxer. To combat this, he recommends a dehumidifier.

The main advice Boxer has to address allergens in is to be proactive. "There are so many good medications to start before and during the allergy season," says Boxer, "but it's important to get started prior to the onset of symptoms – otherwise it is hard to catch up." Talk to your health care provider before beginning a new medication.





EYE ON FI &gt;&gt; by Timothy Bolger

# Wind Farm Work Sails Ahead

OFFSHORE WIND FARM construction ships were repeatedly spotted in the Atlantic Ocean off the southern coast of Fire Island in recent months as the first wave of work got underway this winter.

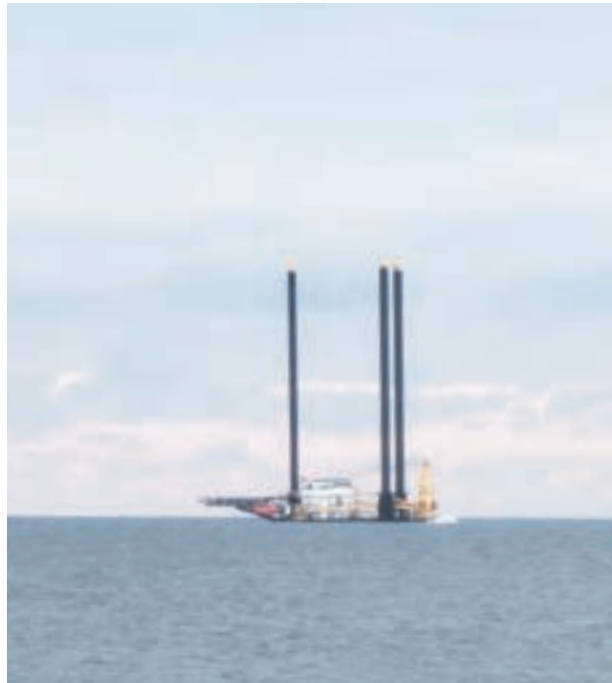
Among the ships Fire Islanders spotted was the “Liftboat Jill,” a distinctive vessel with three 335-foot-tall pipe legs – taller than the Statue of Liberty – used to jack itself up to 20 feet off the surface of the water when the crew is drilling power transmission cable routes, deploying its marine crane, or performing other work that require stability. The Jill, now back in its home port in Louisiana, was in the area over the offseason in support of South Fork Wind – New York State’s first offshore wind project being built 30 miles southeast of Montauk, with the cable coming ashore in Wainscott.

“Crews ... [used] a horizontal directional drilling process to create a pathway and install a conduit for the wind farm’s submarine cable to land [approximately 80 feet] deep beneath the beach,” project representatives said, noting that Jill was in the area for three months from November to January, when it was spotted off FI.

The Jill is one of about 30 ships involved in the project, which will piledrive a dozen 660-foot-tall wind turbines into the ocean floor, powering 70,000 Long Island homes when it goes online as early as this year. The project is one of several planned for off the coast of Long Island. One of which – Sunrise Wind, a 924-megawatt project also planned for 30 miles off Montauk – has its cable slated to come ashore at Smith Point County Park in Shirley on the easternmost end of the barrier beach in 2025.

Not as far along in the process, the wind farm connecting to Fire Island is making progress nonetheless. In April, Eversource and Ørsted – the developers of both South Fork Wind and Sunrise Wind – selected Melville-based Haugland Energy Group LLC for a \$200 million contract to install the project’s underground duct bank system for Sunrise Wind’s onshore transmission line. The company performed similar work for South Fork Wind.

“Offshore wind is our nation’s clean energy future, and Suffolk County is now firmly at the



Dr. John Anner of Atlantique took this photo of “Liftboat Jill” off the shore of Fire Island this past January.

forefront of this industry,” said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

In November, the New York Public Service Commission approved the project’s underground transmission route that will deliver electricity from Sunrise Wind to the LI electrical grid via a 124-mile submarine export cable. The cable will follow an approximately 18-mile route below publicly owned roads and rights-of-way to an interconnection point at the existing Holbrook substation. Onshore construction work is expected to begin later this year.

“We are thrilled to continue our unwavering support for the Sunrise Wind project, a massive offshore wind farm that will power nearly 600,000 homes and create 800 good paying local jobs,” said Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine. “This project will not only provide clean energy to the Town of Brookhaven, but for Suffolk County at-large. With this joint venture, we solidify our commitment to sustainability, renewable energy, and our children’s futures.”

Sunrise Wind will achieve roughly 10% of the

state’s offshore wind goal of 9,000 megawatts by 2035, while also bringing \$700 million of investment to Suffolk and creating 800 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs statewide, officials say. While many tout the environmental benefits of wind energy over the usual fossil fuel power plants, some questions have arisen about the impact of offshore wind.

A spate of whales washing up dead across Long Island, New Jersey and the East Coast – the latest being a humpback whale that died at Robert Moses State Park in May – sparked speculation that the timing of the deaths may coincide with the start of the offshore wind farm work in December, although federal officials have disputed that theory, citing a lack of evidence and experts attributed many of the deaths to ship strikes. A group of environmentalists called for increased whale protections as a result.

“Twenty environmental organizations are calling on our federal leaders to support increased whale monitoring and funding for critical whale protection measures,” Citizens Campaign for the Environment, a Farmingdale-based nonprofit, said in a statement in May. “These asks include a request for \$20 million for the Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Event Contingency Fund in this year’s budget as well as measures to ensure whale monitoring data is up-to-date and publicly available, which could help mitigate ship strikes in the future. Groups are also calling for funding for marine mammal response and necropsy efforts.”

Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, still supports the wind farms and isn’t convinced there’s a correlation between the whale deaths and offshore work.

“The benefits of a new renewable offshore wind economy keep giving,” she said. “Fighting climate change, providing new job opportunities, and now investing in our communities with new tools for clean water and a healthier way of life.”

What will come next for the offshore wind farm saga unfolding off the coast of Fire Island? Like Gov. Kathy Hochul said while quoting Bob Dylan upon the groundbreaking ceremony for South Fork Wind: “The answer, my friends, is blowing in the wind.”

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# "I'm Not Gay: A Musical"

By Jake Maddia

DIRECTED BY SCOTT L. SEMER, "I'm Not Gay: A Musical" stars Sydney James Harcourt, Alan Mingo Jr., George Dvorsky, Gracie Bryant, Jahi Kearse, Adrienne Walker, Griffin Santopietro, Manuel Herrera, and Brad Bradley. The movie is about a compulsive MMA fighter who moves to Fire Island and pretends to be gay to buy the house of his dreams and exorcise his demons.

I was very interested to see this movie because it is newly released and was directed on Fire Island. Not many movies are filmed on Fire Island so that alone sets it apart and is exciting news – but is the flick any good? I am happy to report that "I'm Not Gay: A Musical" is very entertaining.

One of the best aspects is the way the movie was directed. This is Semer's directorial debut, and he proves himself to be a very promising up and coming director. All the song and dance sequences are very well shot and impeccably choreographed. The way Semer uses colors to emphasize mood and to convey the character's state of mind to the audience is interesting.

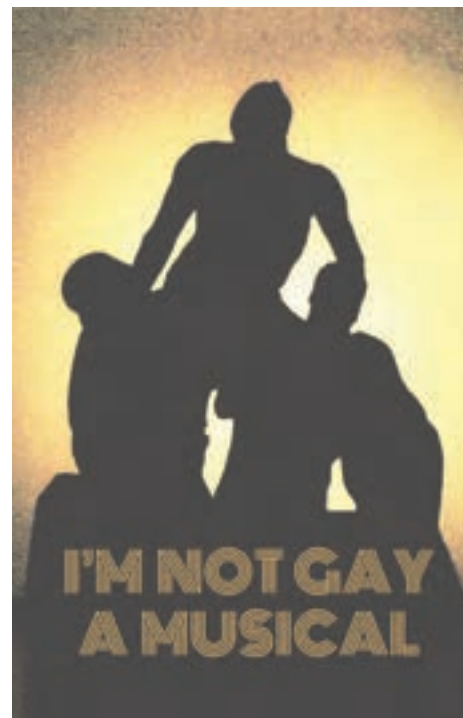
The movie also utilizes a lot of split screen techniques to show the viewer separate events that are happening at the same time. Even though I didn't really think that this technique was particularly necessary, it reminded me of the way Brian De Palma directs his movies.

You can tell that this was a very personal film for Semer because almost every scene in the movie is filmed with a lot of love and dedication.

The movie is also very well acted. The two performances that stood out the most were Sydney James Harcourt and Gracie Bryant. I thought the two of them had a very believable father-daughter relationship, and I think that they had the best character arcs in the film.

It was also pretty cool to see Griffin Santopietro in this movie, especially since I am a massive fan of the show "Cobra-Kai" (2018) and the movie "Terrifier 2" (2022). Alan Mingo Jr. is very good as well. His character has a pretty important role in the film, and I thought he portrayed the character beautifully. Even though the film has its standouts, there is not a single bad performance here. Not all performances are going to blow anyone away or stand the test of time but everyone did a great job with the material that they were given.

Although entertaining, I do not think "I'm Not Gay: A Musical" is a perfect film. My biggest issue with the movie is its story line. It's an idea that has been done multiple times before and, in some cases, it has been done better.



The movie also has multiple themes to it, and because of that, some scenes lose momentum. If the themes had remained more focused it would have made for a stronger story. The film also has a very loud and abrasive musical score that dominated in almost every scene. I don't really know why this score

was utilized so much, but I think that it would have been way better off without it. Finally, the film feels very rushed. There really is not a lot of down time or moments where you can really connect with the characters.

Despite these issues this is still a very entertaining movie. "I'm Not Gay: A Musical" has its flaws and is hardly a cinematic masterpiece, but if you are a resident of Fire Island or are just looking to break out the popcorn and see what's on Amazon Prime, it is a lot of fun and you will not be disappointed.

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## BOOK REVIEW &gt;&gt; by Rita Plush

**"Kismet: A Novel"**by **Becky Chalsen**  
Fiction/Dutton

"KISMET," A FIRST NOVEL from film and TV executive Becky Chalsen, benefits from her decades of summering on Fire Island. She handily lays out the sandy terrain that calls up cocktails and volleyball where it's party time all the time.

It's the Fourth of July weekend at the Sharp family beach house. Amy and Jo are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Jo and Dave are getting married. Have a look at her snazzy, white silk, one-shouldered bridal jumpsuit! But will Jo ever get to zip it up? What with all the un-festive, pre-wedding dramas playing out, there's more than one fly in the wedding soup.

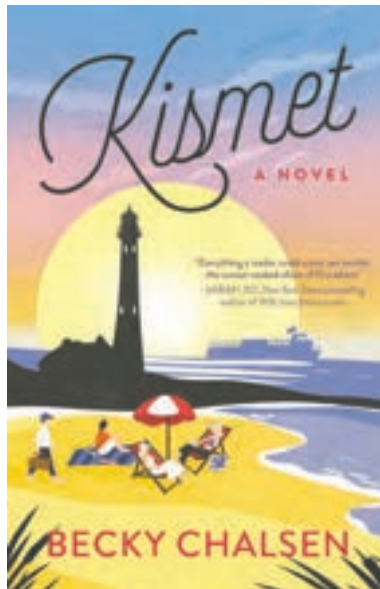
Amy, our narrator, is "sister-in-chief"/maid of honor and married to Ben. But she doesn't seem very sweet on her high school sweetheart. He tries to help her unpack; she refuses his help. He makes to touch her; she draws away. Her thoughts reach back to an "awful night" weeks ago, while his cautious, "Be careful," and "Should you be lifting?" set me wondering if she was pregnant? But I had little time to linger on that thought because here came Emmet, Amy's college crush.

Emmet, handsome charmer, dreamer/drifter, whom Amy hoped never to set eyes on again. What is *he* doing at Jo's wedding? He's the best man, that's what, and the old chemistry is back. The attraction so steamy, they can't keep their hands off each other. Pair that with Amy's married-with-problems status, and you have a woman on the verge, wondering if she chose the wrong mate. And ... filled with guilt when Ben cooks up a surprise beach picnic for two. How could she even consider being with another man? The gal's got a lot on her mind.

Detailed to a fault – think three binders of wedding notes – it has always been Amy who looked after things and held it all together. Jo, a writer, is "better with paragraphs than with plans." Twins, they've shared everything, taking up the other's slack whenever needed, but for the last few weeks, instead of opening their hearts to each other, they answer questions with er, yes, and buts. Is there trouble in twindom? Or is the bride-to-be not to be? Jo's old, loser boyfriend has been texting. Is that why she wants to go home? To him? Is she about to have a romance redo like sis?

Will they or won't they? Chalsen keeps readers guessing with questions aplenty and answers in short supply. But mom has some answers (don't they always?).

At a sit-down with Amy, she gives daughter some well-needed bolstering when she confesses the



mistake she almost made with another man while things were less than lovey-dovey between her and Amy's dad. Marriage doesn't run on an even path, councils mom. But it's a road worth working on.

What's a wedding without in-laws? Dave's parents are doozies.

Conrad: "It's a whirlwind wedding, Val. (Jo and Dave have known each other six months.) "Might as well go for a whirl."

Val: "I don't whirl."

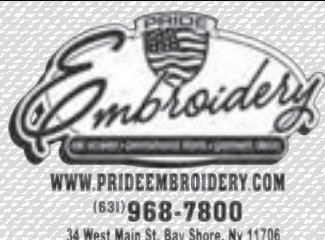
But it's their "breakup" and "mismatch" Amy overhears that sets her fretting about Jo and Dave. Are the in-laws referring to *them*? The author doesn't let on till a surprise reveal chapters down the road – nice going, Chalsen. Not wanting to burden Jo, Amy is mum on it too. But in an affecting scene between them, the long-held hurts and resentments they've been holding in for years surface, and help heal the rift between them.

At its center, the story is about sisterhood, but it's also about relationships and how they fare through the years. How the past morphs into the present and how we navigate that often rocky terrain. Chalsen uses Amy's college journal as an effective means to let readers in on the goings on between her and Emmet back then. But I didn't need the in-depth backstory about the childhood friendship of the Amy/Jo/Ben triumvirate. And for my part, Amy's therapist Gina wasn't needed; she didn't add anything to the story.

Emmet, however, is essential, the nuptials seeming like a lost cause when he, hammered – nothing charming about him now – lets fly his best man toast. A tell-all about his time with Amy, past and present, threatening the whole wedding to fall headfirst on its hors d'oeuvres.

Does anyone get to say "I do, or "I don't"?"

All I can say is, if "Kismet" means *kismet*, dress casually; no gifts necessary. Your good wishes will do.

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## OBITUARIES >>

### David Crosby 1941-2023

By Shoshanna McCollum

AMERICAN MUSIC legend David Crosby died at the age of 81 on Jan. 18, 2023. He was also a direct scion of Long Island's own founding father, William Floyd, the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to have resided in Suffolk County, whose namesake estate in Mastic Beach was annexed to Fire Island National Seashore after the family homestead was gifted to the U.S. Department of Interior in 1965.

Fire Island News had the pleasure of interviewing Crosby in 2016. He agreed to the interview as part of a special series of news articles we conducted to commemorate the centennial of the National Park Service.

While the interview was a great moment for our publication, and Crosby's relation to Floyd was without dispute, neither Crosby or Fire Island News were sure about the precise details of this lineage. Elizabeth DeMaria, acting cultural resources manager for Fire Island National Seashore, helped us clarify that.

"William Floyd was David Crosby's fourth great-grandfather," she explained via a telephone interview.

Floyd was married twice, so what we really wanted to know was who Crosby's fourth great-grandmother was. DeMaria confirmed it was Hannah Jones, Floyd's first wife, who died tragically in 1781 at the age of 41 while living in exile from the Floyd family home after her husband had signed the Declaration.

The chain of lineage actually follows occupancy of the family estate for multiple generations.

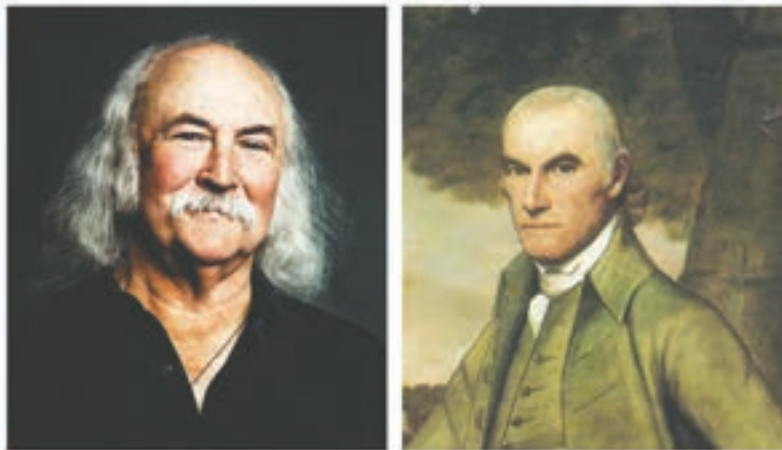


Photo of David Crosby is from the website davidcrosby.com, copyrighted Eleanor Stills and Buzz Person. (Used with permission from David Crosby) Portrait of William Floyd painted by Ralph Earl. (Independence National Park, Philadelphia)

William Floyd's son Nicoll Floyd is Crosby's third great-grandfather, who wed Phoebe Gelston. Julia Floyd is his second great-grandmother, and she wed Edward Delafield. His great-grandfather was Francis Delafield who wed Katherine Van Rensselaer. His grandmother was Julia Floyd Delafield, who wed Frederick Van Schoonhoven Crosby.

"Julia Floyd Delafield was the last in Crosby's family line to be born and reside in the estate," DeMaria explained.

His father, Floyd Delafield Crosby (1899-1985), was an Academy Award-winning cinematographer, involved in the production of more than 100 full-length feature films, including "High Noon." He married Aliph Van Cortland Whitehead and had sons Ethan and David, both musicians.

David Crosby's legacy speaks for itself, partaking

in some of the greatest bands in a golden age for American music, including The Byrds; Crosby, Stills & Nash; and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, as well as his own solo career. He is a two-time inductee to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame due to his work with The Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash.

Crosby also is remembered for his struggles with substance abuse, which reached a low point around the time of his father's passing in 1985, leading to arrests and jail time. He turned his life around and married Jan Dance in 1987, but years of addiction took a toll on his health and he required a much-publicized liver transplant in 1994.

David Crosby experienced a second bloom of musical creativity later in life including an album called "Lighthouse," which was released shortly after his 2016 interview with Fire Island News. He continued to tour and perform until the last year of his life. He died in his sleep on his horse ranch in Santa Ynez, California. While no cause of death was announced by his family, Véronique Sanson, the ex-wife of his former band mate Stephen Stills said on French television that he died from COVID-19 complications.

David Crosby is survived by his wife Jan, sons James Raymond and Django Crosby; and daughters Erika Keller Crosby and Donovan Crosby. David Crosby also biologically sired Beckett and Bailey Jean Cypher, the children of musician Melissa Etheridge and her former partner, Julie Cypher. He is predeceased by Beckett, who died at the age of 21.

### Sam Gross 1933-2023

By Sophia Maiorino

Legendary cartoonist Sam Gross, known for his witty work in The New Yorker and National Lampoon, passed away at the age of 89 in his Manhattan home on May 6. Despite often advising his mentee

and close friend Pat Giles to pursue a more lucrative career like opening a dry cleaner, Sam achieved his childhood dream of becoming a cartoonist.

It was Pat who described his cartoons as sweet and brutal. Characterized as "a cranky but always funny realist" by Pat in a Zoom interview, Sam had an uncanny ability to find potential jokes in everything he observed. Pat fondly recalled visiting Sam on Ocean Beach during summers, where he watched in awe as Sam drew inspiration for his gags.

"We were once on Fire Island, and Sam saw a cat go by and he explained how he noticed that when



a cat moves there is almost only one foot ever on the ground at any given time and that they move totally different than all other animals. That's the thing that I always enjoyed about being with him – everything that he observed was a potential joke," said Pat.

Speaking of cats, Sam believed that he drew cats better than Leonardo da Vinci. In a 2011 interview with The Comic Journal Sam said, "Me and cartoonists Nick Downes, Pete

Mueller, and Phillippe Cohen were at an exhibit of Leonardo drawings at the Met. Leonardo can draw a fantastic horse, and dogs. There was this drawing of these cat paws, and I called them over and said, 'Look at that. I draw a cat better than he does.' And I do. He could not draw cats! One good thing about cartoons: If you can't draw something, you draw it *your way*."

Sam found humor in nearly everything and never ceased to create cartoons and write gags. According to Pat, Sam amassed a staggering collection of nearly 35,000 individual jokes throughout his lifetime,

a testament to his passion and discipline in his immensely successful career.

When he sought peace away from bustling New York, Sam found a slower pace with his family on Ocean Beach. "They had been going to Ocean Beach for about 50 years on and off over the years," Pat explained. "He was just very at home there and I think it was a great place for him to go and recharge."

While Sam's gags were occasionally shocking, they always possessed a heartfelt essence. Whether it was a legless frog amputee wheeling his chair into a crowded French restaurant with frog legs on the menu or a pack of wolves howling at the moon, questioning their impact, Sam's cartoons were meticulously clever.

Pat remembered Sam saying, "If you're funny, you can get away with anything," which exemplified Gross's fearlessness in taking risks with his work. However, he never forgot the targets deserving of satire. "He didn't pull any punches and was politically incorrect before that phrase even existed, but he was never a bully," Pat said. He had this smart sense and realized who the bullies were in any particular depiction."



## HISTORY &gt;&gt; by Christopher Verga

# The Wreck of the Savannah

IN THE AFTERMATH OF Topical Storm Ian last October, Fire Island National Seashore Ranger Claire Formanski was notified about a 13 by 13 foot piece of wreckage floating near the inlet. This mysterious wreckage was encapsulated in Fire Island wilderness area dunes, but the force of the storms ripped the dunes and their contents into the ocean.

After closely examining the wreckage, trenails were utilized in the construction. Using wood spikes to hold the planks together was used in 19th century boat building. Additional observations from the Fire Island National Seashore curatorial staff were that the nails' durability, width, and length came from a boat 100 feet. Based on some of these observations, the wreck is believed to be the relic of the "SS Savannah." On Nov. 23, 1821, the Savannah ran aground on Fire Island before the original 1826 lighthouse was constructed. Over 202 years later, the Savannah would take its final voyage from the Old Inlet to Field 5 of Robert Moses State Park. But the historical significance of this wreck is almost forgotten by history.

Launched in the summer of 1818, the Savannah was a testament to the

passenger transport. Building on the success of the Clermont, East River Shipyard, Crockett & Fickett (located on Corlears Hook, Manhattan) started to build a steamboat that would harness this new steam power technology for transatlantic voyages. Like other first generation steamships, the Savannah was hybrid, using steam and sails to power the intended long journeys. By 1818 before the launch, Captain Moses Rogers was appointed boat captain, with his public intentions of sailing the Savannah and him into history as the first steamship to cross the Atlantic. Years prior, Captain Rogers gained much notoriety for commanding the Clermont. On its first long-distance run from New York to Savannah, Georgia, the local newspaper, The Georgian, reported its arrival in mid-April 1819 as:

*"The elegant Steamship Savannah arrived here about 5 p.m. yesterday. The bank of the river was lined by a large concourse of citizens, who saluted her with shouts during her progress before the city. Her appearance inspires instant confidence in her security. It is evident that her wheels can be unshipped in a few minutes to place her precisely in the condition of any other vessel in case of a storm and rough sea. Our city will be indebted to the enterprise of her owners for the honor of first crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a vessel propelled by steam".*

While in Georgia, residents in the city came to see the ship that bore the name of their beloved city. President James Monroe, on a visit to the city, was invited to sail to Washington, D.C. on a publicity ride. From D.C., the Savannah sailed across the Atlantic to Liverpool, England. The ship used steam power for less

than 90 hours of the 29-day crossing. Witnesses on the coast of Ireland saw dense smoke coming from a boat in the distance. The London Times reported,

*"The Savannah, a steam vessel recently arrived at Liverpool from America – the first vessel of the kind which*



Lithograph of the Savannah based on a circa 1819 painting by Hunter Wood.

*ever crossed the Atlantic – was chased the whole day off the coast of Ireland by the Kite, revenue cruiser; on the Cork station, which mistook her for a ship on fire."*

Across the Atlantic, The Georgian newspaper declared the voyage a "proud monument of Yankee skill and enterprise."

By 1820 the ship's fame started to wane, and it became a light passenger and cargo ship. The famous steam engine that defined the vessel was removed in 1820. Shipping cotton from southern plantations to northern textile mills regularly, the ship recouped its money for the owners William Scarbrough and Robert Isaacs. When the Savannah ran aground in November 1821, the ship's historical voyage became forgotten due to the rapid

advancements in steam engines.

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society (FILPS) is currently designing a way to display the relic of the Savannah by the Lighthouse and Lens buildings. This display will tell the broader narrative of the forgotten 19th century maritime industry while preserving Savannah's historical place.



Savannah remnants at Fire Island Lighthouse. (Photo FILPS)

technological innovation of its time. Little over a decade before its launch, Robert Fulton designed the Clermont, the first successful steamboat. Financed by a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Robert Livingston, it was operated only in the East River as

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE ON FIRE ISLAND>> by Bob Anderson

# Welcome Guest or Invasive Pest?

BAMBOO IS ONE OF the fastest-growing plants on earth and it offers remarkable sustainability features. Its resilience, strength and ability to regenerate quickly make it an excellent resource for various applications such as construction and landscaping, and of special interest to us, erosion control.

And yet it's a collection of paradoxes: bamboo's extensive and relatively deep root system holds sand together better than beach grass, stabilizing the island and protecting against storms. But it can also be terribly intrusive, rapidly overtaking open spaces creating a monoculture. For example, my neighbor's yard (see picture) was completely cleared of all growth this past October. But in just seven weeks since the start of the current season the bamboo has regrown to fill nearly the entire area 4 feet tall. And if uncontrolled it will grow to its full height of about 20 feet in just a season or two!



**Bamboo regrowth after just seven weeks.**

It's an even greater problem for those who have gardens, raised walkways and most especially vinyl lined swimming pools. Bamboo roots rapidly grow toward any source of fresh water and it's easily capable of finding weak or rusted spots in the sheet metal shell of pools and then penetrating the vinyl liner, causing costly damage.

I grew up associating bamboo with the jungles of Vietnam and other tropical environments, not the sands of northern beaches such as Fire Island. And yet this amazing plant somehow prospers on Fire Island even though winter temperatures plunge far below freezing. This past winter we



had several days when the temperature hovered around 4 degrees Fahrenheit, cold enough to intimidate me but apparently not the bamboo!

Back on the plus side, its dense growth forms a lush habitat for various animal species, including birds, insects, and small mammals. Bamboo stands provide shelter, nesting sites, and food sources, contributing to the overall biodiversity of the island. And its thick foliage creates a barrier to the impact of wind and water erosion along the island's fragile coastal areas.

When carefully controlled with buried thick plastic bamboo root barriers (as pictured) it can add a lot of aesthetic appeal to landscaping, create privacy, mitigate unwanted sounds, and define path and walkways. Thickets of it can even add security: try pushing your way through a 30-foot-thick wall of dense bamboo and you'll see what I mean.

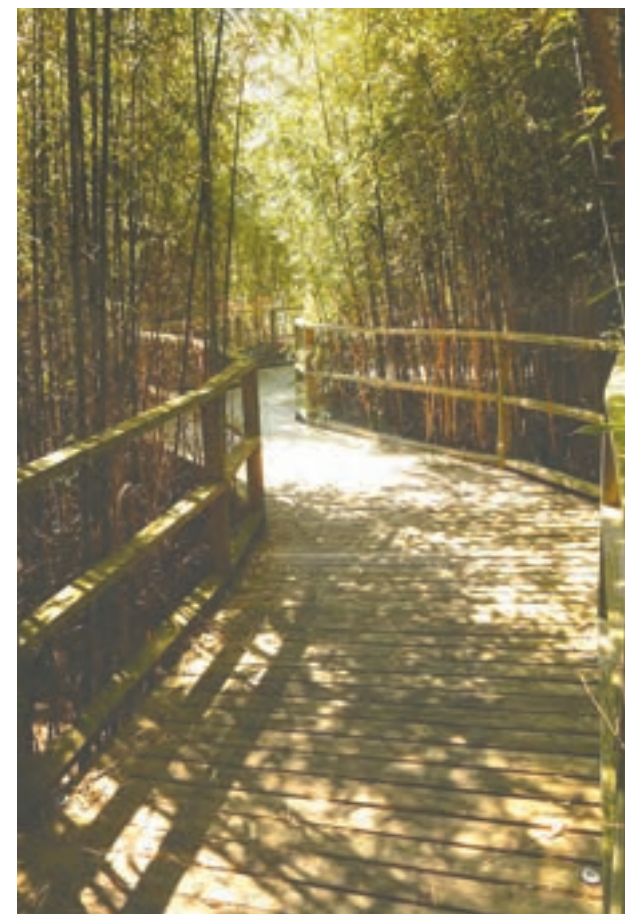
Bamboo also absorbs more carbon dioxide and releases more oxygen into the atmosphere than most traditional plants or timber sources, making it an excellent tool in combating climate change, especially in low-lying coastal areas already threatened by storms and rising sea level. And its roots act as natural filters, reducing water pollution and improving water quality.

It is widely used in construction, providing a sustainable alternative to traditional materials. Bamboo's strength and flexibility make it ideal for flooring, furniture, and even architectural designs. When properly harvested bamboo fibers are also sought after for their softness, breathability, and moisture-wicking properties. Bamboo-based fabric is increasingly used in clothing, bedding, and other textile products. And bamboo charcoal is utilized for air and water purification due to its absorption properties.

Bamboo grown uncontrolled chokes gardens, destroys grasses (by blocking sunlight), drains swimming pools, and outcompetes native plants. But if properly managed, this incredible

plant can be a major part of creating a more sustainable future. The key is to control its growth to gain all the benefits but prevent it from creating widespread monocultures, where it will dominate and outcompete native plants.

Throughout history, bamboo has held cultural significance in many countries and cultures. Bamboo plays a prominent role in traditional Asian architecture, music instruments, artwork, and crafts. Its strength and resilience make it an enduring motif across thousands of years.



Through collaborative efforts between researchers, land managers, and the public, we can mitigate the impacts of invasive bamboo, preserve biodiversity, and maintain the delicate ecological balance. By embracing responsible management, we can ensure that bamboo continues to be appreciated for its remarkable qualities without posing a threat to our homes and gardens or the stunning natural beauty of Fire Island.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The state of New York prohibits the planting of Golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*) and Yellow Grove bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*) species. Also consult local Town and Village municipal laws pertaining to this subject for additional guidance.*



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July 23•6pm <b>Tommy Duck</b>	August 6•6pm <b>Ivan Ward</b>	July 27•6pm <b>Tom Bauer</b>		August 24•6pm <b>James Oblak</b>
August 20•6pm <b>Uncle Petey</b>	August 10•6pm <b>Anthony Bottero</b>			

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